

# ABOUT THE Artists

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## Malann Klassen

is a multidisciplinary artist and educator and long-time Cochrane resident formally trained in drawing and ceramics at ACAD (AUArts). She often uses themes of home and belonging in her work. The experience of having lived in over seventy-five homes has profoundly influenced her practice which is rooted in exploring the meaning of place as a physical structure and emotional reflection. She gravitates toward discarded and nostalgic materials that speak to the passage of time, echoing her belief in

sustainability and emotional resilience. For Malann, community connection is at the heart of her creativity; she views art as a medium for collective reflection and belonging. Through teaching and public engagement in Cochrane, and Winnipeg she has created countless spaces for others to feel seen and understood—values reflected in her contributions to this public art initiative. Malann, working in partnership with Lara Kruger, is a featured artist in the successful Cochrane Crossing Civic Plaza Art Project.

## Lara Kruger

is a rural Cochrane-based artist and public art professional whose practice is driven by a fascination with connection—between people, environments, and ideas. With a BFA in sculpture and environmental studies from Mount Allison University and roots in both classical and contemporary traditions, Lara works across an array of materials including metal, clay, wood, and light. Her practice blends surrealism and realism, informed by early influence & mentorship from her sculptor uncle Mac Mackenzie (creator of Cochrane's "Man of Vision") and

shaped by years of hands-on public art installation and arts leadership. Lara's work invites curiosity, challenges perception, and encourages interaction—always anchored in her reverence for the land and her active role in Cochrane's creative ecosystem. As Founder and Executive Director of the Route 22 Artist Collective, Lara continues to weave art into the everyday experiences of her community and was a successful applicant for the Cochrane Crossing Civic Plaza Art Project.