



Leslie Ternowetsky(LESTER)

LESTER (Leslie Ternowetsky), born in Winnipeg in 1978, skipped other classes in school in favour of the art room. Over the years, she balanced Business & Administrative Studies with photography courses, moving gradually from nature toward abstraction. At the William Kurelek exhibition at the WAG in 2011, she realized she related strongly not only to his Ukrainian background, but also to the darker, more surrealist paintings from his troubled London period. This prompted her to revive her creative energy.

After a hiatus, she found Artbeat, saying "I've needed something like this!"

LESTER currently produces watercolours on paper; alcohol ink on tile; and pottery while experimenting with other mediums. In these media, her style leans toward abstract patterns from nature, such as leaf-shapes. She works free-style and spontaneously to achieve the organic look she's seeking. She has developed a unique technique for outlining forms with white spaces instead of dark lines, an idea drawn from her family's homemade pysanky. LESTER wants people to interpret the images and invent their own stories when they see her work. "I have an off-beat sense of humour. Like an anthropologist, I try to understand how people's backgrounds affect their behaviour," says Leslie. "Though the realization came late that I could create, I've found making art turns my mind away from my anxieties."