

Bio

Ingrid McMillan is a German-Canadian painter who lives in Winnipeg. Her work is consistently about the human experience in the digital age. Each body of work consists of multiple oil paintings, sometimes in a range of different media, grouped around specific themes and meanings. During research and production new areas of interest arise, leading to the next body of paintings. Ingrid holds a BFA honours degree in painting and a Master's degree in art education, both obtained at the University of Manitoba, Canada.

Artist Statement, 2026

In these oil paintings I weave imaginative narratives to express the dynamics of systems. My curiosity about the complexities and self-organization across overarching themes is inspired by intuitive impressions when reading, hearing a word or phrase, coupled with research into nature, microbiology, philosophy and global concerns. Agnes Martin, minimalist painter of innocence, believed that art can steady a volatile world, affirming the human spirit's highest potential. In this context, I use a dominant cream palette to spotlight the proliferation of stem cells facilitating regeneration and our expanding consciousness. This series examines how separate parts influence one another in reciprocal loops, inviting questions of similarity and difference: How do

entities align, diverge, reinforce, or impede one another? Recurring themes meditate on how tiny units—cells, neurons, ideas—can organize, differentiate, and awaken within vast systems. The paintings suggest connectivity—neural networks, glial dialogue, and environmental inputs—to propose awareness as a product of system-wide dialogue.

Consciousness is a collaborative emergence, a chorus of interaction forged by countless micro-decisions and environmental relationships. Organic forms meet geometric scaffolds, creating a dialogue between natural growth and the infrastructures that shape it. This tension mirrors how consciousness balances intuition and logic within organized structures, and maps how systems endure, transform and reveal themselves through reconfiguration and renewal.

In this work an imagined inner evolution is powered by stem cells as the silent architects of life. It invites viewers to observe how perception shifts as consciousness expands and to feel the quiet certainty that even the smallest cell can redefine an entire universe. These paintings are portals to the intricate connections between humanity and the world, where compassion dissolves divisions and the transformative potential of life resonates.