

I am submitting a proposal of paintings for exhibition whose subject matter and execution represent a major shift from my previous artistic process. I have been exhibiting nationally and internationally since the 1970's. My work is represented in collections both public and private across the country. While teaching at Concordia University for the past 30 years I have maintained a studio practice as a narrative figure painter. At the same time I sustain a summer tradition of painting from nature as an exercise in observation. The paintings of my series, *Oasis* and *Forest* are an outgrowth of this summer practice, an expression of a narrative both personal and borderless.

In the paintings of *Forest*, I have released the anchor of the sky and the focal pinion of the figure. I work with photographs and works created *in situ* on TerraSkin. With quick, broad gestures, I strive to convey the sense of ever-shifting pattern and space in the midst of flowing water, foliage, and migrant light. I focus on composition, rhythm, and colour which sheds literal interpretation in favour of intuition. The subject matter has renewed my commitment to the discovery of an original expression of space.

The visual narrative created by the Group of Seven has defined Canada to itself as well as to the world. The group's 1925 Wembley exhibition and last year's exhibition at the Dulwich Picture Gallery in London have helped to give Canadians an international identity. I add my voice to this tradition as my new work joins in conversation with Canadian artists Goodridge Roberts and Gordon Smith.

My creative connection to nature has a long and circuitous path that parallels my development as an artist. From my time as a student of abstract expressionism in New York, my stay in the US extended for 20 years and stretched across the continent. Returning to Canada, I taught in three different provinces, broadening my experience of our national landscape from Nova Scotia to B.C. Still, more than anything else, it was my childhood, rooted in urban Montreal but mediated each summer with halcyon trips to woodland retreats in Ontario, Quebec and Vermont, that left an indelible impression of nature, an underlying sense of loss and longing that clings to the annual separation from a woodland idyll. I have maintained this summertime connection to the forest which, with each visit, seems increasingly in jeopardy, increasingly poignant and powerfully connected to the course of my own personal and creative identity.

I propose an exhibition of 15 paintings on canvas and 5-10 watercolors on TerraSkin. The paintings will vary in size from 1 - 3 meters. The watercolours are approximately 45 x 60 cm. The selection includes works from my most recent series *Oasis* and *Forest*.

I would very much like the opportunity of introducing the art public to my newest, and perhaps most Canadian work.