

Artist Statement

Whether as a response to landscape or in terms of using abstract means to convey the ebb and flow of organic processes and our place in the world in relation to them, all of my work is intended to convey something of our complex relationship to nature, as it exists today. Since that relationship is ever-changing, the use of a language of creative means that moves between accident and control seems to me to replicate the relationship best, in both process and product. I am always hopeful that viewers will find some point of contact in what I do that will replicate this relationship to nature for themselves.

My current project involves an examination of what I am calling Remnants, as analogies for what has been lost when the originating contexts that created the sociocultural connections between objects and the contexts that created them are no longer available, and are instead substituted with an imposed narrative or perspective. Often, a viewer in a museum is confronted by a disembodied fragment of text or architecture, which is helpfully explained by the accompanying text or 'footprint' that provides a paradigm of curatorial practice through which the artifact 'should' be understood. Does this explain what the artifact meant to the original creator, or those who used it? Similar questions can be asked in terms of a sense of place: when confronted by Aboriginal burial mounds when developing a GTA subdivision or a rubble stone foundation surrounded by old lilacs in the Pickering Airport Lands, what is the tension between the narrative perspectives provided by the artifacts themselves verses those that are imposed upon them? These are my current concerns.

MICHAEL J.B. BLACK

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Informed by a late Modern interpretation of abstraction, my practice typically moves between painterly and post-painterly approaches to biomorphic forms and abstract interpretations of landscape. In both areas, I have tried to balance the pre-planned with the immediacy of the painting process itself, so that the images created are able to utilize abstraction's ability to convey universal themes as well as variations in interpretation.

Artist's Background

Michael graduated from the Ontario College of Art (now OCAD U) in 1984, and holds a Doctorate in Education from the University of Toronto. Michael has shown his work in Toronto, Charlottetown, Port Perry, Creemore, Thornhill, Port Hope, Ottawa and Peterborough His work is held in many private collections.

Representation

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Art Gallery of Hamilton

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Arta Gallery

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Koyman Galleries

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Canvas Gallery

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Recent Shows

- THIS PRECIOUS LAND** (Group Exhibition), Gallery 1313, August 2017
(Group Exhibition), Arta Gallery, Winter 2014 and 2015
(Group Exhibition), Arta Gallery, Fall 2015
- SUMMER HEAT** (Group Exhibition), Arta Gallery, July 2014
- ARTFUL ESCAPES** (Group Exhibition), Arta Gallery, January-February 2014
- BENEFACTOR'S SHOW** (Group Exhibition), McLaren Art Centre, March 2014
- THE RESIDENTS** (Group Exhibition), Arta Gallery, October-November 2014
- SPRING ART SALE** (Group Exhibition), Art Gallery of Hamilton, May 2013
- WINTER ART SALE** (Group Exhibition), Art Gallery of Hamilton, November 2013
- PERSPECTIVE** (Group Exhibition), Studio Vogue Gallery, September 2013
- INTERPLAY** (Group Exhibition), Studio Vogue Gallery, October 2013
- COLOUR AND LIGHT** (Group Exhibition), Arta Gallery, August-September 2013
- SUMMER SALE** (Group Exhibition), Arta Gallery, July-August 2013
- GROUP SHOW**, Arta Gallery, July 2013
- SPRING GROUP SHOW**, Arta Gallery, March 2013
- ART COLLECTION** (Group Exhibition), Arta Gallery, December-January 2013
- OPEN COUNTRY** (SOLO Show), Arta Gallery, February-March 2012
- GROUP SHOW**, Arta Gallery, March 2012
- TWO SEASONS** (SOLO Show), Russell Gallery, March-April 2011
- CONTEMPORARY ART BY GALLERY ARTISTS** (Group Exhibition), Arta Gallery, November 2011
- ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOW** (Group Exhibition), Arta Gallery, November 2011
- RECENT SAND PAINTINGS** (SOLO Show), Russell Gallery, November-December 2009
- SAND PAINTINGS** (SOLO Show), Kent Farndale Gallery, January 2009

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