

Place

Two forces have always influenced my work, the countryside of Saskatchewan and my dreams. I have always been attracted to and felt at home in vastness, whether prairie fields, oceans or dark skies filled with stars. As a child my most profound visual experiences were exploring the balancing forces of the Earth's equilibrium in the ever-changing prairie landscape. The idea of Place for me is a fantastic spectacle of immensity, evoking the mysteries of nature and reflecting the oneness of the universe. These paintings attempt to evoke these experiences of Place.

Creating paintings is a mysterious poetic dance in the immeasurable realm, a process of intentionally and intuitively inventing and inviting through one's contemplation and play. I try to paint what hovers above and below and in-between. I'm adding and subtracting to the canvas through gentle submission to the intuitive. In painting you are making room for inspiration to connect with, and challenge the familiar. The more deeply a thing is engaged in the immeasurable, the more deeply lasting is its value.

Horizons are a compositional focal point in these works. I'm fascinated with this in-between place, that is both ambiguous and tangible to the eye. Horizons are simultaneously a divider, a threshold, a barrier, and a portal to an in-between realm. We can see an ever-advancing point between two worlds, where the land and sky meet. We imagine that we might reach that point, but in reality no meeting point exists. It's a liminal place, an in-between realm. Horizon lines are invented marks for an ambiguous state. The contemplations of this idea are as endless and vast as the horizon itself. Horizons are places of longing and contemplation where one explores the outer world with the inner eye.

The pictorial action of dividing the space with a line in a painting creates an immediate compositional tension. This action creates juxtapositions: above and below, light and dark, opacity and translucency, heavy and light, calm and charged, stillness and motion, the suggestive and the real. All these relationships become the dynamic energies of these paintings. I have always liked what Hans Hoffman once said, "any isolated thing never can surpass its own meaning, its meaning can only be extended through relation with other things in a process of metamorphosis." It is my hope that the viewer enters the space within these paintings and becomes a participant in this experience of place. Every place has a spirit. The spirit of a place is where the seen and the unseen are co-mingling in a poetic dance.

"Nature is visible spirit, and spirit is invisible nature." Freidrich Schelling

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