

Artist Statement

It is increasingly difficult to recognize the linkages that once gave us a sense of place and belonging. The rise of global markets has placed a demand on the individual to become more nomadic, more cosmopolitan, and ever attentive to breaking news. Despite all this connectivity, rarely does one have the time to feel truly present and attentive to one's true being—the mere act of being. Some would cynically declare that such attention is self-indulgent and frivolous when there is so much more happening everywhere else. According to such critics, there is no time for quiet introspection—certainly not for play.

For millennia, humans have found joy and delight in their environment, their unique corner of the world. We can be grateful for all the potential and convenience that modernity offers us, but if we ignore what is right before our eyes, these ancient, disappearing landscapes, then we are leading an impoverished life. My landscapes are drawn from the natural beauty of the Northwest. They are simple meditations on nature, either evolving from or dissolving into nothingness. These places of beauty and tranquility are so ingrained in our being that they require only a subtle visual suggestion to bring about euphoric recall.

At the core of my work lie the principles of Wabi Sabi: the quintessential Japanese aesthetic, the study of the beauty of things. The values of this aesthetic are elusive and hard to define, but they allow for—even revel in—what is imperfect, irregular, intimate, unpretentious, earthy, murky and simple. In this, they are a natural foil to the standardized and streamlined aesthetic of modernity.

Strong organic shapes and landforms provide the framework on which the painting is developed, wherein I can contrast opacity and transparency, stark darkness and diffused luminance, by layering and blending my oil paints and glazes. Certain landforms and places remain recognizable to those who know them, yet can feel as elusive as the aesthetic values that inform them. The end result will evoke perhaps not a precise thought or memory, but a sense of the peculiar connectivity we can experience not in spite of, but because of our transience. They aim to remind the viewer that, on this uncertain journey, in this world that seems to be ever-changing, ever confronting us with the inadequacy and futility of our actions, we are enough, the world is enough, if we but take the time to reflect upon it and our place within it, however brief it may be.