

Artist Statement:

For the last 13 years, the subject matter in my paintings has explored car-culture, consumerism, and urban sprawl. I've made work with cars in parking lots, shoppers pushing carts through grocery store checkouts, and gridded collaged landscapes of real estate magazines. My current paintings revisit the idea of Canadian landscape in terms not of natural but of commercial space, where ubiquitous retail outlets dictate use of the land and proclaim its occupation. I like the idea of subverting the romanticized untouched Canadian environment, iconized in art history in such celebrated work as the Group of Seven.

Over the time of working with these themes I've become fascinated with presenting advertisements within my paintings. Commercialism and advertising is so mainstream that we are desensitized to it, but under the frame of landscape painting something changes, and we're left to question intention. I like the idea of the juxtaposition of the "high and low" together, notably used by artists from the pop art movement. There is something humorous to me about a post impressionist Tom Thomson style landscape with an ad for Doritos in it.

For this exhibition, I decided to take the opportunity to curate a show of work focusing on billboards and tractor trailer ads. The paintings shown are a range of work between 2009 and 2018 and I believe show a breadth of approaches to my process.

Thankyou to Sasha Nelson and Hardware Gallery in Kentville NS for hosting this exhibition.

Jack Bishop January 2019