

JACK BISHOP

AUTO PLEIN-AIR

March 2 - March 23, 2012

GALLERY
PAGE AND
STRANGE

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

JACK BISHOP received his Bachelor of Fine Art with a Major in painting and Minor in drawing from NSCAD University in 2006. As an emerging artist based in New Brunswick, Bishop's profile is growing rapidly. Recently collected by the Canada Council Art Bank, Bishop has also been profiled on CBC.ca "Driven to Create: Maritime Art Sensation Jack Bishop", August, 2006, by Sean Flinn.

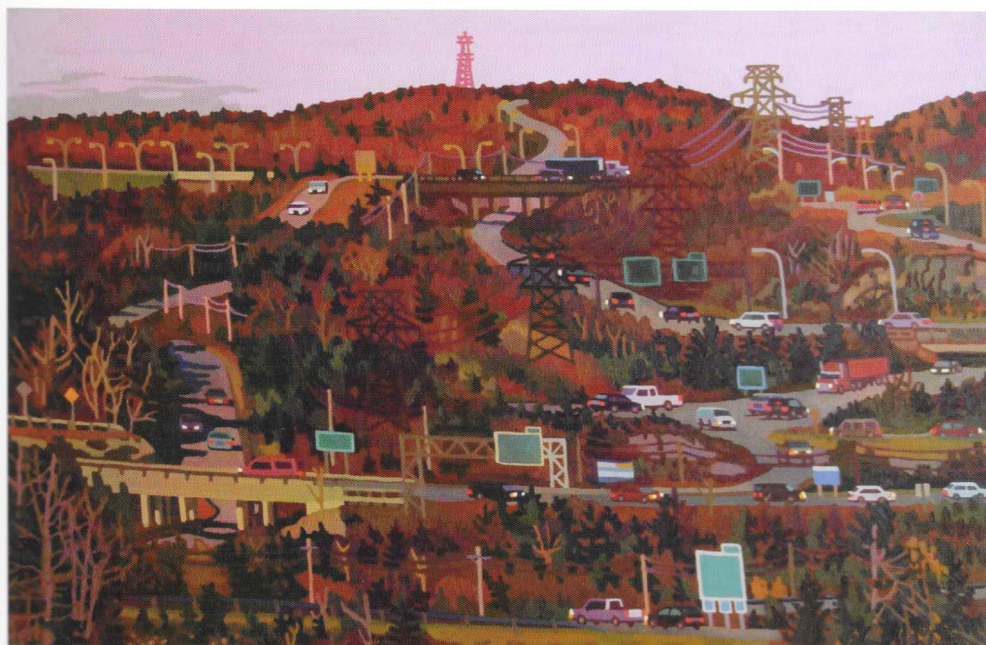
Awards include the Emerging Artist Award "The Originals Art Awards", the Arts New Brunswick Emerging Artist of the Year prize, Arts New Brunswick Creation Grant, and Robert Pope Foundation Painting Scholarship.

Bishop regularly exhibits in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Public exhibits include "Contemporary Classics", Sunbury Shores, St. Andrews, NB, 2007, "SWARM", Anna Leonowens Gallery, Halifax, NS, 2006, "Michael Fernandes' Drawing: What You Need", Khyber Club, Halifax, NS, 2006, "5 Emerging Artists", Saint John Arts Center, Saint John, NB.

He is held in the collection of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, The New Brunswick Art Bank, Art Bank of Canada, Department of Foreign Affairs Canada, and The Colart Collection, Montreal PQ.



rainbow over canadian tire, oil on canvas, 60" x 65"



highway changing colours, oil on canvas, 48" x 72"



snowy highway, oil on canvas, 48" x 72"



power/moose, oil on canvas, 60" x 60"

Six years ago when Victoria and I were opening our gallery, senior artist Gerald Ferguson paid us a surprise visit. He was anxious I visit Jack Bishop's studio at NSCAD University. In Jack's last year, he had made an impression on this important painter and advisor.

Ferguson was so insistent that I see the work, he asked me to close the gallery for a moment. I couldn't resist his enthusiasm. I headed up to the top floor of the painting studios only to be confronted by the most honest Canadian landscapes I had ever seen. Cars upon cars, in traffic, scrubby trees, huge parking lots and dismal skies. They were so beautifully painted, and while not necessarily depicting the most romantic of Canadian scenery, so honest and unadorned that I fell in love. Since that time, many clients have followed, and critics too.

Step into the world of Jack Bishop, you are in it every day.

Victoria Page



AUTO PLEIN-AIR

In a lot of ways, my art has been dependent on driving, in my creative process, and as my subject matter, exploring ideas of car-reliance, consumerism, and sprawl. Through these themes, I aim to engage the viewer into dense manifestations of contemporary life, with reverence to past traditions of landscape painting and modernist space abstraction. Formally, my interest in painting is space; controlling the density of an image, and manipulating perspective. I also really like fluorescent colours.

In my current work I've been using recurring iconography such as gas stations, highways, drive-throughs, business parks and mini-malls. These are colourful and busy landscapes but they also present a dark realism. They are fabricated environments; recognizable scenery anywhere. The paintings are composites of this imagery, fragmented and assembled into flattened pictorial space. For reference material, I was using photos I had taken while traveling between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The paintings were made over the past year with the assistance of a project grant I received from the Canada Council for the Arts.

Through the course of making this work I was thinking a lot about the famous Canadian impressionist paintings by Tom Thomson and The Group of Seven, and became more drawn into the idea of including trees and scenery into my own painting. I've also been experimenting with elements of the natural world; wildlife, and different seasonal effects of weather and precipitation. I'm trying to balance these new references with the sense of excess and widespread consumption from my past work.

I think the most significant step forward for this work is how the subject matter is opening up different interpretations of meaning, not only on society's dependence on cars, but the rural-urban fringe, plastic architecture, and environmental impact.



deer/gas, oil on canvas, 48" x 48"

FOLD: rainy highway, oil on canvas, 48" x 60"



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du Canada

Jack Bishop acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts

GALLERY PAGE AND STRANGE is a contemporary gallery located in the historic Granville Square of downtown Halifax, Nova Scotia. In close proximity to NSCAD University and other fine art shops and restaurants, the gallery is situated within the heart of the cultural district of the city.

GALLERY
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