

Artist Karen McCallum

4059 Aspen Drive East, Edmonton, Alberta, T6J 2A7

780-604-1376

www.karenmccallumartstudio.com

BIO



Karen McCallum is an artist based in Edmonton, Alberta. The Rocky Mountains, canola fields, endless skies, forests, and river valleys evoke a deep appreciation in her for the Alberta landscape.

She works primarily in acrylics that allow her to layer paint transparently and opaquely over a jewel-toned underpainting that often peeks through. She injects her paintings with intensified colours and quiets the chaos of shapes to extract the essence of a place.

Inspired by places she's experienced by foot, bike, and car, she considers these spaces sacred and enjoys experiencing them with friends, family and dogs. Her paintings invite you to be still and notice the beauty in ordinary things we might otherwise ignore.

She has gleaned much from attending art workshops, and what she lacks in formal training she's learned from her good friends Trial and Error. Believing we are all made to create, she teaches both children and adults hoping her love of creating art will go viral. Because a world without art would be miserable.

Karen is a member of the Federation of Canadian Artists.

ARTIST STATEMENT

It all started in the 70's as a kid hanging out in Millcreek Ravine. That's where my love of nature began: the smell of creosote-soaked trestles, the thick woods and sky poking through. Then driving to the Rockies on family road trips, past canola fields under endless blue or stormy grey skies to spot mountains in the distance, then finally magnified and towering above.

I'm still smitten with the Alberta landscape. There are places that feel wild, quiet and untouched even in the cities. I play in it every chance I get—biking, hiking, wandering, taking a million photos. Then paint and repeat.

In my paintings, I capture the essence of what I see and intensify nature, saturating the colours rather than imitating exactly what is before me. Landscapes fascinate me because they are in constant flux: the clouds move and morph, light continually changes, colours diminish and intensify, seasons change, mountains blanketed in snow melt to reveal striated faces, canola fields turn from green to gold.

Interpreting this transience onto canvas with expressive colour and reduced forms is my attempt to capture these fleeting moments. I paint to remember the connections associated with these places and the feelings and memories they evoke. Places are filled with stories of who or what has come before.

The perfect medium for my impatience is acrylic. It's fast-drying, forgiving nature forces me to paint spontaneously and quickly, layering transparent glazes and opaque colours over a jewel-toned underpainting that in some areas remains untouched, a history of layers.

For the last 20 years, I've been splitting my time studio painting and teaching art to elementary school students. 2020 brought an end to guest art teachers in schools, so I've immersed myself in painting prolifically, full time and enjoying every minute.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

Self Taught Artist; Various Art Workshops

Bachelor of Education with distinction—University of Alberta 2000

Bachelor of Arts—University of Alberta 1994

JURIED EXHIBITIONS & GALLERY SHOWINGS

2021

Federation of Canadian Artists Gallery “Vancouver Salon”

Federation of Canadian Artists Online Gallery “Landscapes”

Federation of Canadian Artists Online Gallery “Bloom”

2020

Edmonton Chapter Federation of Canadian Artists “Spring Show”

Federation of Canadian Artists Gallery “Artists’ Choice”

Federation of Canadian Artists Gallery “Works on Paper”

2011

The 25th Annual Celebration of the Arts Exhibit—juried group exhibition of the Red Deer Arts Council (December 2011)

EXHIBITIONS

2021

Square 1 Coffee Shop, Edmonton

Art From The Unknown Online Gallery

2020

Square 1 Coffee Shop

2019

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Square 1 Coffee Shop

2018

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Gracious Goods Coffee Shop Belgravia

2017

Spruce Grove Allied Arts Open Art Competition—2nd Prize in Intermediate class

Square 1 Coffee Shop

Organizer & Vendor Celebration of Smalls Art Market

2013

Gracious Goods Coffee Shop Belgravia

Old Strathcona Bus Barns Art Show

2012

Gracious Goods Coffee Shop Belgravia

Kaleido Family Arts Festival – vendor

Harcourt House Annual Exhibition “Symbiosis”

2011

Gracious Goods Coffee Shop Belgravia

Misericordia Hospital Edmonton—group exhibition with SWCA

Orchid Society of Alberta—placed 1st in category

INSTRUCTION & COLLABORATION

Artist in Residence in Elementary Schools Edmonton & surrounding areas (2000-2020)

Art workshops for Edmonton Public School Local 43 (2018-2019)

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TEC 245 Ottawa Retreat Kandinsky Group Mural (2017)

Art and Nursing collaboration with Values Based Leadership Seminar UofA Masters of Nursing Program students (2013)

Elk Island School District Professional Development “Clay Totems” breakout session (2011)

Volunteer art teacher—Meyonohk Elementary & Westbrook Elementary School (2000-2010)

DEMONSTRATIONS & FUNDRAISERS

Artists for the Rockies fundraising auction—donation of painting (2021)

Mission of Mercy fundraiser—donation of painting (2018)

City Councillor campaign fundraiser—donation of painting (2017)

Mission of Mercy fundraiser—donation of paintings, live painting demo and auction (2014)

Spero Gala fundraiser for ACT Alberta—donation of painting

École Sainte Jeanne d'Arc Night of Art—donation of painting & live painting demo and auction (2013)

Westbrook Night of Arts—donation of painting & live art demonstration (2011, 2012, 2013)

CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

Henwood Residential Treatment Centre & Alberta Hospital

University of Alberta Permanent Collections

MEMBERSHIPS

Federation of Canadian Artists—Active Member October 2020-present

Federation of Canadian Artists Edmonton Chapter October 2020-present

Society of Western Canadian Artists General Member (SWCA) 2010-2013

Harcourt House Member 2012

GALLERY OF PAINTINGS

<https://www.karenmccallumartstudio.com>

SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://www.instagram.com/karenmccallumart/>

<https://www.facebook.com/karen.mccallum.37>