

STATEMENT FOR "ROUND ABOUT MIDNIGHT:  
New 'Still Lake' Paintings"

Newzones, Calgary, September, 2015

The pleasure of the application of the paint is what always draws me back to the studio. Stretching some canvases, messing with the colours, and thinking about the set-up for the next painting is the calling card. If I am settling into the rhythm of a series, it seems easy; the excitement of the last mixture prompts a new combination. I generously lay down a wash and wait for the surprise when it dries. Then I coax on another layer, and another. The impact in the final canvas can be subtly or radically altered from all these applications; if done right, the time and the process render the picture rich and complex.

In these "Still Lake" paintings, the view is across a lake, not a big lake but one where you can just make out the other side. Nothing is precise. Perhaps there are cottages, flagpoles, or docks glimpsed amongst the trees on the strip of land stretching across the horizon; a sun or a moon floating overhead; boats or reflections in the water.

By restricting the motif and repeating this familiar set-up, I am freed up to focus on other aspects of the process. In this series my interest is in the quality of the paint surface and the modulation of the colour. It is remarkable that a limitation opens up so many other possibilities. One painting leads to another, each one connected to the last, but unique.

I hope these 'Still Lake' paintings are quiet with an energy that is calm and contemplative. For me, they are reminiscent of smooth, late night, free-flowing jazz, with the mystery and wonder that comes with that.