

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Shelley Wales

My landscape paintings are inspired by the large loose gestural charcoal sketches I make of photographs I have taken on hiking and backpacking trips into the backcountry of British Columbia and our northern neighbours.

Working primarily in watercolour, my paintings are loose and spontaneous. I love the unpredictable nature of the medium, to me it is reminiscent of travel in the landscapes I paint and the illusion of control we have over them. Like memories, my paintings are impressions of a place and a moment in time. Some things standing out more than others and others fading, becoming more abstract the closer you look.

Working in series, the paintings as a whole are a cumulative landscape of a particular trip into the backcountry and each individual painting is a moment from that trip. Not all the moments painted are perfect or pretty. Each exist somewhere between fiction and reality, like a great fishing story.