

BOYD WAITES

Kingston, ON

BIOGRAPHY

Boyd Waites has been drawing, painting, and creating since an early age. He attended Chester School of Art foundation course and then a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) degree at Central St Martins in the UK. Waites was brought up in the South of the UK in Kent, but with family roots in Yorkshire. After his degree he continued to paint in earnest for a few years and entered into the field of IT systems. He followed a career in IT for many years while sporadically working on drawings and paintings as well as producing rafts of doodled drawings in notebooks.

Recently he has returned to painting in earnest and full time, operating between Studios at Lake of Bays and Oakville in Ontario, Canada initially until moving in April 2023 to a farm in the Kingston area where he now has a large studio in a converted barn.

Always most interested in our natural surroundings and people and their inner emotions and feelings, Boyd says his work is about "being". He paints human moods and senses using a language based on landscape that is universal. He is not interested in faithfully depicting a particular place and his work could be categorized broadly as Abstract Expressive Landscape

Boyd finds that oil paint provides the natural softness and long drying time that suits his process. He is always experimenting and loves working with oils using his hands, rags, and brushes, often reducing back paint and manipulating the surface. Working on several pieces at any one time, contemplating and coming back to re-work until a piece feels complete.

Boyd feels he is in a race against time and to catch up. There is an urgency to what he does as he continues to push forward.

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ARTIST STATEMENT

It's an intimate affair I have with paint on canvas. Like so many other artists through time, the beauty of the natural world has always inspired me. The rawness, the softness, the changing weather and the sense of us humans being a small part of it all. It is a sense of elemental being that draws me to landscape in my work, my paintings reflect the sense of being in a natural world that affects all of us. I simplify and paint the essence of a feeling, surfacing basic human emotions through abstracted landscape. My emotions come out while creating the work, feeling so deeply I am drained and often exhilarated by the work I am doing. When reacting to the work; joy, uplift, sorrow, fear, calm, serenity, are often expressed by the people who view and collect my work. I am so happy to witness and understand the reactions and interactions with me and the work, I take it all in, I also ravenously ingest other visual artists work in all mediums and all of this informs the work I do together with my experiences, my memories my day-to-day life.

My work is traditional in the sense, that it is paint on canvas in a two-dimensional way using oil as it lends itself to the often blurred or soft images and senses that I achieve. I use brushes, hands, rags, knives immersing myself into the painting and I explore the feelings through paint and manipulate the surface light, depth, tone to accentuate the feeling. Broad marks and swathes of color, few if any details, painting the obscure characterize much of my work.

My painting techniques are based on some fundamental techniques of painting, scumbling, wet on wet, layers and glazing, I tend to drag and rub and reduce the paint. I have worked in many mediums during my lifetime including performance, sculpture, printing, digital, I am at home with paint and a canvas, I strive to forward my work in the genre with a keen sense of history and knowledge while always exploring my expression.

HORIZONS – CURATORIAL STATEMENT

Wall Space Gallery invites you to join us for the presentation of new paintings by four renowned landscape artists; [Tanya Kirouac](#), [Peter Rotter](#), [Dan Ryan](#) and [Boyd Waites](#). Through their unique approaches, each of these artists explore the use of the horizon line, whether through its stark presence or its abstract denial, to tether us to reality or allow us to drift into psychological spaces of reverie.

A horizon line in painting is often considered the most basic descriptor of space, grounding abstract environment into 'land' and 'sky' - "up" and "down". Rather than create a barrier or shift point of view, Boyd Waites almost completely obliterates the horizon in mists of layered

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colour, leaving only hints to help us find our bearings. His ethereal landscapes become memories of the essence of places visited.

Waites loosens or amplifies the grip of gravity and space to allow painting to connect with the sensorial experience of place. The power in his approaches to disorientation or grounding through the horizon lies in his ability to shake us loose from our everyday experience of the world.

Tiffany April, Curator

CV

EDUCATION

- 1982 Chester School of Art, London, UK
1986 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Central St Martins, London, UK

EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Horizons*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
2023 *Artist Spotlight*, Jordan Art Gallery, Jordan, ON
2023 *Elements and Undertones*, Group Exhibition, Summer and Grace Gallery, Oakville, ON
2022 *Stopping Place*, Group Show, August 13-27, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
2022 *Solo Show*, July-October, Summer and Grace Gallery, Oakville, ON
2022 *Solo Show*, Laurie McLachlan Gallery, June, Oakville, ON
2022 *Group Show, February, March*, Preston Art Gallery, Uxbridge, ON
2021 *Sullington Art Exhibition, Group Show*, October, Sullington Manor, London UK
2021 *Faded but Beautiful*, Group Show, October, Mixed Show - Art of Emotions Gallery, Toronto, ON
2021 *Approaches to Abstraction*, Online Group Show, September, Kefi Art Gallery, Toronto, ON

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1998 *Group Show, September, October, Crokham Hill Gallery, London UK*
1998 *Open Studio, August, The Old Bakery, Westerham UK*
1988 *Group Show, April, The Groucho Club, London UK*
1988 *Group Show, February, March, Crokham Hill Gallery UK*
1998 *Open Studio, February, The Old Bakery, Westerham UK*
1987 *Group Show, September, October, Crokham Hill Gallery UK*
1987 *Yearly Portrait Award Show, August, National Portrait Gallery UK*
1987 *Group Show, July, Bankside Gallery, London UK*
1987 *Group Show, February, March, Crokham Hill Gallery, London UK*
1986 *Somebody has to tell Picasso, August, Group performance, Tate Gallery, London, UK*

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