

DAN RYAN
Toronto, ON

BIOGRAPHY

“Close observation and engagement with the subject matter is just the beginning. The process and challenge of creating is to see beyond the obvious. What you see in front of you, is my own personal version of the Landscape” – Dan Ryan

As a Canadian painter, Dan Ryan calls himself a contemporary artist. Although he is steeped in a rich tradition of landscape painting, his dynamic and energetic abstracts are where mood, colour, light and texture collide. Ryan makes use of impasto applications of paint, allowing drips and undulations to reveal the hand of the artist. His gestural and free style of painting breathes life and motion into the subject matter whether abstract or landscape.

Ryan has sold hundreds of paintings in North America and Europe and his works are featured in private and corporate collections.

After completing secondary school, he moved to Cape Dorset Baffin Island where he continued to sketch and paint on location. His primary role while there was to work with the Inuit in their Artists Co-op. It was there that he was influenced by the land and the way he observes nature. He studied at the Ontario College of Art and was mentored by his uncle, Terrance Ryan, a recipient of the Order of Canada.

Ryan later received instruction in the art of illustration at Sheridan College. His training as an illustrator/designer has given him a solid foundation for his art. The same thing that goes into a successful illustration, goes into a successful painting.

Finishing college, he went into the field of advertising and was employed as an Art Director and Illustrator with several of Canada’s top advertising agencies, while continuing to pursue the fine art of oil painting and mixed media in his spare time. Dan now resides in Sarnia, Ontario and paints full time.

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WALL SPACE GALLERY
1090 Bank St. Ottawa, ON. K1S 3X5 | 613.729.0003 | info@wallspacegallery.ca



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". For Dan Ryan it is a marker of space and the distance from a destination - at times expanding endlessly or encroaching on enclosure.

Striking a balance between these extremes is Ryan's *Quiet Chill* whose implied horizon becomes obscured in what might be snowy billows. Unable to see where the tree line ends, the horizon could expand forever, while the encircling trees interweave into a veil of expressionistic gesture and colour across our path.

Ryan loosens or amplifies the grip of gravity and space to allow painting to connect with the sensorial experience of place. The power in Ryan's approach 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

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CV

SELECT SOLO + GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Horizons*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2022 *New Works*, Gallery in the Grove, Brights Grove, ON
- 2020 *Peter Colbert + Dan Ryan: New Works*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2019 *Riverdale Art Walk*, Jimmie Simpson Park, Toronto, ON
- 2019 *Les manteaux blancs de l'hiver*, Gordon Harrison Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2018 *Fall Rhapsody*, Gordon Harrison Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2018 *Riverdale Art Walk 2018*. Jimmie Simpson Park, Toronto, ON
- 2017 *Riverdale Art Walk 2017*. Jimmie Simpson Park, Toronto, ON
- 2016 *Les manteaux blancs de l'hiver*. Gordon Harrison Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2016 *Fall Rhapsody*. Gordon Harrison Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2016 *A Spring Affair*. Gordon Harrison Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2016 *Riverdale Art Walk 2016*. Jimmie Simpson Park, Toronto, ON
- 2015 *Riverdale Art Walk 2015*. Jimmie Simpson Park, Toronto, ON
- 2014 *Mistletoe Magic*. Toronto, ON
- 2014 *Art Exhibition*. Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2013 *Environmental Music II*. John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2012 *Art Exhibition*. Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2011 *The Artist Project*, Toronto, ON
- 2011 *33rd Annual Juried Show of Fine Arts*. Art Gallery of Mississauga, Mississauga, ON
- 2010 *Environmental Music I*. John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2009 *31st Annual Juried Show of Fine Arts*. Brampton, ON
- 2009 *Toronto Art Expo*. Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON
- 2008 *Toronto Art Expo*. Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON
- 2007 *Sons and Daughters Art Show*. One Man Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON
- 2007 *Festival International Montreal en Arts (F.I.M.A.)*. Montreal, QC

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