

DAVID LIDBETTER

Aylmer, QC

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Hamilton in 1962, David Lidbetter developed an early appreciation for the Canadian wilderness.

The time spent traveling with his family as a child through scenic provinces, along with an intensive art studio program in his formative teenage years, were the catalyst for his future painting career.

After many years of exploring a variety of media and subject matter, Lidbetter has spent the last decade painting highly identifiable and unquestionably Canadian landscapes, primarily in oil. He works close to his home and studio in Aylmer, Canada in areas like Temagami, Gatineau and Algonquin Park. It is no coincidence that his work is reminiscent to the vistas explored by other landscape painters like Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven. In fact, David's work has been recognized as highly collectable and described as, *"contemporary feeling Group of Seven scenes pared down to their essentials. [Where] mood seems more important than the actual details of forests, rivers and skies."*

David will spend hours and sometimes days in local forests and nearby lakes photographing, studying, sketching and absorbing the information he will later turn into larger paintings. He works primarily in oil on board and most recently has introduced casein and watercolours.

He says of his ever-evolving work, *"The scenes that capture me are often the ones that would immediately be overlooked by others. Something usually catches my eye, such as a change of light or a strong contrast of colour and shapes"*

David has lived, exhibited, and been represented in the Ottawa area for over fifteen years.

All rights to reproduction of the works of art identified herein are retained by the Artist

WALL SPACE GALLERY

358 Richmond Rd, Ottawa, ON, K2A 0E8 | 613.729.0003 | info@wallspacegallery.ca



ARTIST STATEMENT

The scenes that capture me are often the ones that would immediately be overlooked by others. Something usually catches my eye, such as a change of light or a strong contrast of colour and shapes. I look for inspiration in what may be considered bleak and desolate landscapes. A blanket of winter snow with a single bare tree silhouetted against a cold grey sky. A band of translucent, pale orange light breaking through a dark storm cloud over a frozen lake or a single autumn leaf left hanging after the first winter storm provides endless possibilities for dramatic paintings. By looking past what one might consider the more conventional beauty of nature, I attempt to illuminate the unexpected.

I enjoy hiking in my spare time and many of my pieces are directly influenced by these hikes in nature. I use many different mediums, such as oil paints, acrylics, water-colours and pastels to represent the Ottawa-Gatineau areas I frequent. I believe that working in a single medium is restrictive to my artistic process. Each idea manifests in its own individual style.

Woven into the design and abstraction is an even more important element. For me, my landscapes must have an emotional content. Feelings of isolation, solitude and quiet pervade in my works. I love the surprising natural sense of balance and design found in landscape. The line, the abstract space, and fractured colour are what interest me most. After a few sketches and photographs I will return to my studio where I continue to strip down and fine tune the scene to its most minimalist composition.

All rights to reproduction of the works of art identified herein are retained by the Artist

WALL SPACE GALLERY

358 Richmond Rd, Ottawa, ON, K2A 0E8 | 613.729.0003 | info@wallspacegallery.ca



EXHIBITION STATEMENT

David Lidbetter's watercolours and oil paintings in *far & further* are a steady reminder of the artist's appreciation for the breathtaking moments of light and mood around us – from the subtleties of crisp blue shadows across snow, to the jarring depth of semi-frozen rivers. Lidbetter's perspectives of isolated landscapes from the Ottawa-Gatineau area place us immediately within a scene. There is a distinct feeling that these vistas are experienced from a first-person perspective that turns inward, spurring reverie for quiet moments of respite and thoughtfulness when alone with the Canadian wilderness.

His depopulated vistas are reminiscent of the Group of Seven, who championed the awe-inspiringly vast ranges of Canada. Lidbetter well-known for his bold, minimalist approach to contemporary landscape is adept at balancing realism and abstraction, where soft edges bleed into one another and dapples of light and shadow break up picture planes into pattern.

Lidbetter's use of empty vistas is a contemplation of personal connections to these spaces and the peace, quiet, and reverence they instill in the artist; feelings he hopes to impress on his viewers. The personal relationship to landscape described by Lidbetter falls outside of a historical colonialist view of empty land as a resource to be harvested or settled. Rather he imparts the power of the natural world to impact us emotionally and psychologically. In his own way, Lidbetter speaks to the quiet persistence of nature - a churning force in which we are embedded.

In a rare use of figures within a landscape, *Weathering the Storm* features two women gazing out at an approaching storm. The title suggests resilience at a time when what the future holds might be unknown. This is a striking departure from Lidbetter's isolated first-person perspective and invites a sense of community and empathy.

Lidbetter opens avenues for shifting away from colonialist views of the natural world instilled throughout history. Acted out across Lidbetter's canvases are understandings of deep emotional connections and the 'life-force' within nature.

- Tiffany April
Curator

All rights to reproduction of the works of art identified herein are retained by the Artist

WALL SPACE GALLERY
358 Richmond Rd, Ottawa, ON, K2A 0E8 | 613.729.0003 | info@wallspacegallery.ca



CV

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *(upcoming)*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2022 *far & further*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2021 *Elemental*, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2020 *recent works*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2019 *out there*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2018 *transience*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2018 *terra cognita*, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2017 *whiteout*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2016 *silent spaces*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2016 *Recent Works*, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2015 *Resonator*, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2014 *Recent Works*, StudioHouse PEC, Wellington, ON
- 2013 *Wanderings*, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2012 *Vision*, Terrence Robert Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2006 *Stimulus*, Rothwell Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2005 *Point of View*, Galerie du Parc, Chelsea, QC
- 2004 *Natural Expression*, Galerie Old Chelsea, Chelsea, QC

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Summer Show*, Howard Mandville Gallery at Ponderosa Winery, Seattle, WA, USA
- 2021 *McMichael Canadian Art Collection Autumn Art Sale*, McMichael Gallery, Kleinburg, ON
- 2019 *Body of Work*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2017 *Algonquin Art Centre*, Algonquin Park, ON
- 2016 *Pause Nature*, Galerie Bloom, Algonquin Park, ON
- 2016 *Algonquin Art Centre*, Algonquin Park, ON
- 2015 *Canadian Art Collective*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2015 *Algonquin Art Centre*, Algonquin Park, ON
- 2015 *Love Art Fair*, Toronto, ON
- 2014 *Ottawa Art Expo*, Ottawa, ON

All rights to reproduction of the works of art identified herein are retained by the Artist

WALL SPACE GALLERY

358 Richmond Rd, Ottawa, ON, K2A 0E8 | 613.729.0003 | info@wallspacegallery.ca



- 2014 *Buckhorn Fine Art Festival*, Algonquin Park, ON
2014 *New Art Festival*, Ottawa, ON
2014 *Love Art Fair*, Toronto, ON
2013 *Boston Fine Art Show*, Boston, MA, USA
2013 *New Art Festival* – winner “Best in Show – Painting”, Ottawa, ON

All rights to reproduction of the works of art identified herein are retained by the Artist

WALL SPACE GALLERY
358 Richmond Rd, Ottawa, ON, K2A 0E8 | 613.729.0003 | info@wallspacegallery.ca

