

GERALD PENRY

Kingston, ON

BIOGRAPHY

I studied fine arts for six years at The University of British Columbia, earning a BFA in 1995 and MFA in 1997 and receiving the Florence Muriel Smeltzer Scholarship for Painting in 1994. This period of intense creative training was a compatible interruption within a career in architecture -- about ten years as a draftsman aspiring to be an architect before and another fifteen years as an artist content with designing, sketching, rendering, detailing, and model making after. The highlight of my career in architecture has undoubtedly been a decade of employment (1995 – 2005) with Nick Milkovich Architects Inc. in association with preeminent Canadian architect Arthur Erickson; at that exceptional firm – a truly educational studio environment – I learned a uniquely sensitive approach to design and refined the skill of crafting beautiful architectural drawings. I applied my fine arts sensibilities to my work in architecture; my architectural tendencies certainly inform my creative process and production.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I like the way a series of work documents an evolving idea: each piece in the series represents a snapshot of the idea at that moment. Sometimes the difference between pieces is apparent, such as overall scale or colour scheme; other times it is subtle, like the direction or size of brush strokes. Although I have several series to which I return as I am compelled, my most enduring has been Chimerical Places. I contrived this quirky title in 1999 to describe a great volume of architectural drawings that were bestowed upon me, mostly via fax, by their author gradually over a period of about ten years. Like the adjective describes, these 'chimerical' sketches, as I received them, are simple delineations of imaginary, highly unrealistic structures, though some do seem to reference notable works of architecture. Using these drawings as frameworks for exploring elements of art, such as colour, rhythm, texture, etc., my objective is to create pictures that challenge perceptions of the representation of objects on a two dimensional plane. Chimerical Places Three, the third and current manifestation of these sketches, are the product of explorations in paint of the aesthetics of architectural drawing, playing with ambiguities of commingling systems of mechanical representation while developing painterly equivalents of pencil field rendering techniques. Although each of my series entails certain specific aspects of exploration, common to all is an ambition to develop an aesthetic that strikes a harmonious balance between concept and technique.

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CV

- 2018 *Chimerical Places III: More Explorations in Architectural Representation*, Gallery on the Bridges, Saskatoon, SK
- 2015 *Chimerical Places III: New Explorations in Architectural Representation*, Itinerant Gallery, Saskatoon, SK
- 2015 *Chimerical Places III: Architectural Representation*, Green Ark Collected Home and Gallery, Saskatoon, SK
- 2006 *Inaugural Group Show*, Rouge Gallery, Saskatoon, SK
- 1999 *Plane Spaces, Chimerical Places, and a Church on a Cliff on the Sea: A Show of Fourteen Small Paintings*, Nick Milkovich Architects, Vancouver, BC
- 1997 *Sight Lines: New Artists, New Work*, Atelier Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 1997 *MFA Graduate Exhibition*, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC
- 1996 *Recent Work: MFA Group Exhibition*, Art and Design Gallery, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC
- 1996 *Face to Face Arts Festival*, St. John's Shaughnessy Church, Vancouver, BC
- 1995 *Duo Exhibition/Enhancement Project*, Standard Life Blood Donor Clinic, Canadian Red Cross Society, Vancouver, BC
- 1995 *Current Stock: UBC Undergraduate Graduation Exhibition*, Harrington Gallery, Vancouver BC

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