

## DAVID LIDBETTER

### ARTIST STATEMENT / BIO

Born in Hamilton in 1962, David Lidbetter developed an early appreciation for the Canadian wilderness. As a child, the times spent travelling with his family through scenic provinces became the catalyst for his future painting career. His early artistic education came from the High School of Commerce Visual Art Program, as well as courses and workshops through the Ottawa School of Art, the Nepean Visual Arts Centre and the Mississippi Mills School of Art. Lidbetter has been painting highly identifiable and unquestionably Canadian landscapes in oil since 2004.

He works close to his home and studio in Gatineau, Quebec in areas like Temagami, the Ottawa Valley and Algonquin Park. It is no coincidence that his work is reminiscent of the vistas explored by other landscape painters like Tom Thompson and The Group of Seven. 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 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. 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 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. Woven into the design and abstraction is an even more important element. For me, my landscapes must have emotional content. Feelings of isolation, solitude and quiet pervade in my works. I am not interested in painting pretty pictures.

I also enjoy the process of working with materials that help to tell the story. I paint in oils, applied in thin glazes like watercolour and work towards thicker and more varied surfaces. I want the viewer to be excited by the textures, colours and contrasts in my paintings. Most of all I love the discovery. Every new painting I treat like a fresh new start, in the spirit of traditional Canadian landscape painters such as the Group of Seven. Additional influences include Franz Kline, Robert Motherwell, Paterson Ewen and Jean-Paul Riopelle. From these modern masters, I hope to learn from the past and strive to create a more contemporary idea of landscape painting."

## SELECTED EXHIBITION HISTORY

### SOLO SHOWS

- 2023 Impressions, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa
- 2022 All is Not Lost, Muse Gallery, Toronto  
Far & Further, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa
- 2021 Elemental, Muse Gallery, Toronto
- 2019 Recent Works, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa  
Artist in Focus, White rock Gallery, White Rock, BC  
Violet Light, Muse Gallery, Toronto
- 2018 terra cognita, Muse Gallery, Toronto  
Transience, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa
- 2016 first and last, Muse Gallery, Toronto  
Silent Spaces, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa
- 2015 resonator, Muse Gallery, Toronto
- 2014 Recent Works, StudioHouse PEC, Wellington
- 2013 wanderings, Muse Gallery, Toronto
- 2012 Vision, Terence Robert Gallery, Ottawa
- 2008 Natural Silence, Terence Robert Gallery, Ottawa,
- 2006 Stimulus, Rothwell Gallery, Ottawa,
- 2005 Point of View, Galerie du Parc, Chelsea
- 2004 Natural Expression, Galerie Old Chelsea, Chelsea,  
Local Colour, Rothwell Gallery, Ottawa
- 2003 Rothwell Gallery, Ottawa

### GROUP SHOWS

- 2024 Group Show, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2023 Own the Light, Group Show, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON  
Open Water: 98th Annual Exhibition, Canadian Painters in Watercolour, Toronto  
Shades Of Grey II, American Tonalist Society, New York, NY USA
- 2016 - 2023 Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON  
Algonquin Art Centre, Algonquin  
A New Day, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2022 Works On Paper, Federation Of Canadian Artists, Vancouver, BC
- 2021 Summer Show, Howard Mandville Gallery, Seattle, WA USA
- 2021 McMichael Canadian Art Collection Autumn Art Sale, McMichael Gallery,  
Kleinburg, ON
- 2019 Body of Work, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2018 A Sense of Place, Howard Manville Gallery, Kirkland, WA, USA
- 2017 Invitational Small Works Show, Howard Manville Gallery, Kirkland, WA, USA  
Algonquin Art Centre, Algonquin Park, ON

2016 Algonquin Art Centre, Algonquin Park, ON  
 Galerie Bloom, Montreal, QC  
 Buckhorn Fine Art Festival, Buckhorn, ON  
 New Art Festival, Ottawa, ON  
 Algonquin Art Centre, Algonquin  
 Park, ON Canadian Art Collective, Love Art Fair, Toronto, ON

2015 Canadian Art Collective 'Point of View' Ottawa, ON  
 Contemporary Art at Large, Toronto, ON Love Art Fair, Toronto, ON

2014 Ottawa Art Expo, Ottawa, ON

2013 Canadian Art Collective, Boston International Fine Art Show, Boston, MA  
 Pop-Up Gallery, Ottawa ON  
 New Art Festival, Ottawa, ON 2011 New Art Festival, Ottawa, ON  
 Algonquin Art Centre, Algonquin Park, ON

2010 The Artist Project, Toronto, ON

2009 The New Art Festival, Ottawa, ON  
 Art in Strathcona Park, Ottawa, ON

2007 Art in the Park, Ottawa, ON  
 Ottawa Art Festival, Ottawa, ON  
 2002 Art in the Park, Ottawa, ON  
 Art at the Billings Estate Museum, Ottawa, ON

2005 Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
 Elmwood Art Fair, Ottawa, ON  
 Ottawa Art Festival, Ottawa, ON

2004 Elmwood Home & Art Fair, Ottawa, ON Art in the Garden, Ottawa, ON  
 Ottawa Art Festival, Ottawa, ON

2003 Art in the Park, Ottawa, ON  
 Ottawa Art Festival, Ottawa, ON  
 2002 Art in the Park, Ottawa, ON

2001 Galerie Old Chelsea, Chelsea, QC  
 Art at the Billings Estate Museum, Ottawa, ON  
 Art in Strathcona Park, Ottawa, ON