

STEV'NN HALL

ARTIST STATEMENT / BIO

Stev'nn Hall (b. July 19, 1966) is a Canadian contemporary visual artist living in Hamilton, Ontario. Stev'nn grew up in rural Ontario with a 35mm camera in one hand and a paintbrush in the other. He studied film, painting and photography at Concordia University in Montreal and continues to draw influences from these disciplines. After working as the director of a non-profit film co-op, a director of indie music videos and as an internationally award-winning television promo producer, Hall has returned to painting. In his current work, he explores his roots with photography & mixed media landscape. His paint-splattered artwork depicts the lakes, roads and big skies of his childhood and blurs the boundary between photography and painting. Hall infuses images with the wonder of a young mind. His immersive multimedia landscapes evoke the awe of being a young child in the backseat of a car driving through rural Canada. Hall explores grandly sumptuous landscapes that shift from light and inviting, to darkly beautiful; "I was equally drawn by the vastness of nature, and also threatened by its power and unknown transformative character." Hall's large-scale photo-based pieces are intriguing collisions between, painting and photography with digital techniques. Through an involved process, the images Hall creates pass through a number of filters: his subjects are often photographed through glinting glass, the photographs themselves then re-photographed, cropped, overlapped, and distilled, the resulting images are then blown up to an immersive scale. These large images are then scratched and distressed and painted on in saturated colours, then glazed behind conscious texture: rippled and irregular, like the surface of an encaustic painting. The resulting works are so personal as to be universal; an everyman perspective ensues. Hall explores the "connection to the unknown" evoked by expansive landscapes and the use of light and space in his photographs. His work embodies a romance with the rural Ontario landscapes of his childhood. Staring into the depths of these images of horizons, skies, clouds, light, flare, and scratches, the viewer is welcomed, invited and engaged by Hall's vision of the world.