

## JEAN JEWER

### ARTIST STATEMENT / BIO

Growing up on the remote coast of Newfoundland, Jean Jewer watched gigantic icebergs float by, and wind and water whip and carve the land. Her abstract paintings testify to this first-hand experience of the raw energy, violence and beauty of Eastern Canada's coastal landscape, demonstrating a visceral connection to the sublime drama of her environment. Weather forces parallel the way Jewer makes art; her work emerges from the canvas like a dramatic act of nature.

"This splattering liquid [of paint] resembles nature's elements in the way that it flows, gushes, drips, and pours. These same features seem to parallel the way I make art. My paintings emerge like an act of nature: in an emotionally charged moment, I pick, I scrape, I slash, I mark my surfaces."

Keeping body and spirit together, Jean Jewer retains us in an intertidal zone, where a high tide of feeling fluctuates with an ebb that brings us back to concrete environmental concerns. She concentrates on the visceral connection to the sublime, on the mute matter of paint, and on atavistic gestures that reach down, underneath words, to mimic vital forces. Words and things are salvaged as necessary tools in which to express concerns about the ocean's health, but Jewer suggests that such tools can only be meaningful in an environmental discourse if they are connected to a feeling in our bones, a feeling that nature is us. - Petra Halkes is an independent curator and art critic.

Jean Jewer currently lives and works in Kingston, ON, but she returns often to her native Newfoundland. She received a BFA from the University of Manitoba in 1990 and continued her studies at the Ottawa School of Art, and at the Visual Arts Centre in Montreal, where she painted with Harold Klunder. Jewer has exhibited her work in many group and solo exhibitions in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and England. Her art can be found in corporate and private collections throughout North America and abroad.

## SELECTED EXHIBITION HISTORY

### SOLO SHOWS

- 2024 Recent Works, J2 Gallery, Gananoque, ON
- 2020 Recent Works, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2018 Past Summer, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2017 Unexpected, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2015 from THE ELEMENTS, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2014 Recent Work, Blink Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2012 New Work, Blink Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
"Speak Out" Nuit Blanche installation, Cube Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2011 New Work, Cube Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
Whoosh, Karsh-Masson Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2009 Recent Works, Cube Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
Earths Breath, Sept. 09, Blink Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
Weather, Urban Pear, Ottawa, ON
- 2008 Natural Phenomena, Blink Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2007 Sentiment d'Appartenance, Espace Odyssee, Maison de la Culture de Gatineau, QC  
Reflections, Blink Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2006 De La Mer, Cumberland Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
Affinity, Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, ON

### GROUP SHOWS

- 2014 - 2024 Group Show, Muse Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
- 2021 A New Day, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2018 Group Show, Deiglan Gallery, Skagastrond, Iceland  
Unscripted, Enriched Bread Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2017 Opid Hus, Fjorubraut 8, Skagastrond, Iceland
- 2016 IMPRINTED, Walnut Contemporary, Toronto, ON 2015
- 2015 Recall, Walnut Contemporary, Toronto, ON
- 2014 Recent Work, Blink Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2013 (IN)Habitus II, Red Head Gallery, Toronto, ON  
Between Liht and Shadow, Blink Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2012 Le Party, Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
"Recent Additions to the City of Ottawa's Fine Art Collection", City of Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
Blink Collective, Trinity Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
Noir, Cube Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2011 Ottawa Art Gallery, LE PARTY, Ottawa, ON  
Threaded, Blink Collective at Shenkman Centre, Ottawa, ON  
Essence, Blink Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
Place and Circumstance, City Hall Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON

- 2010 Toronto International Art Fair, Toronto, ON  
 Barely Their, Blink Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
 Homage to Abstract, Cube Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
 Thread, Blink Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2009 Carleton-Sur-Mer Symposium, Guest Artist, Gaspesie, QC  
 Nuit Blanche, The Elaine Fleck Gallery, Toronto, ON  
 Toronto International Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON
- 2008 Nature, Fritz Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
 2 Forces, Main Gallery, Ottawa School of Art, 2 Ottawa, ON
- 2008 Juried Group Exhibit, Galleries McClure, Montreal, QC  
 Best of The West, Cube Gallery, Ottawa, ON

## **NOTEWORTHY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **EDUCATION**

- 1990 Bachelor of Fine Arts, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MAN
- 1996 History & Painting, Ottawa School of Art, Ottawa, ON
- 2009 Issues in Contemporary Painting, University of Ottawa, ON

### **GRANTS**

- City of Ottawa Project Grant/Blink
- Ontario Arts Council Arts Organization Grant/Blink
- Shenkman Articipate Grant and Exhibition/Blink
- City of Ottawa Arts Organization Grant/Blink

### **REVIEWS & CATALOGUES**

- 10th ANNIVERSARY - NES Alumni Exhibition Catalogue - July 2018
- Reading "Images In The fog" - Barbara Cureden - getGuerilla.com Fri. May 20, 2011,
- The Ebb and Flow of Language- Petra Halkes- Catalogue for Karsh Masson, 2010
- Elaine Fleck's Catalogue of Contemporary Fine Art -Toronto - Oct. 2009

Le temps qu'il fait, Katy Le Van, VOIR, volume 7 no 44, page 11, Nov 1, 2007

Newfoundland Meets Germany -John Holmes, Ottawa (X) press, Vol: 16 NO 06, page 9, Feb 12, 2009

Whoosh Review -Dipna Horra - CBC Radio one 91.5FM -Nov.23/2010

Storm Warnings - Adam Volk - Ottawa (X) press, Dec. 9, 2010