

## HOLLY DYRLAND

### ARTIST STATEMENT / BIO

I come from a long line of farmers and creatives, artists and keepers of the land. I am a landscape artist. A wife, a mother, an Interior Designer by training and an Artist by choice. Raised a farm girl in rural Alberta, I am constantly in awe of the sky, the movement, and the light of the landscapes here, which constantly inspire my work. I love the discovery of each painting I work on, capturing the essence and being able to bring the beauty of this world to others.

I work in acrylics and love the process of layering, building brush stroke after brush stroke. I am greatly inspired by God's creation, by those moments all around me every day that I catch glimpses of: the wind, the sunlight and the shadows. I am not particular about what landscape I paint, but am always drawn to the skies, the atmosphere, the light and contrast, and especially love creating a painting that draws you in. Often my work is mistaken at first glance for a photo, but when you look at the painting I love to leave visible brushstroke, evidence of the painter at work. I like to see the paint and the process.

Each painting is a lesson in learning to observe my surroundings and capture the emotion of that place. I enjoy working quickly, laying shapes and capturing the overall feel of a piece. I try very hard to focus less on detail and more on emphasis of motion, allowing for a final flourish of brushwork or color surprise to bring the piece to life.

I am always hoping to build appreciation for the beauty around us; a moment to pause and take something in, to encourage someone to linger and stay awhile. I hope to trigger a memory, a connection to someone's past, or just help others to see the everyday as beautiful as it is! Getting lost in a moment as if they are standing in that place, in that exact place that captured my attention.

Being passionate and aware of landscapes from a young age has created an internal need to explore the act of creating. To figure out how to paint, what to say and why it's important to say it. This creative exploration and intense learning in a relatively short period of time has forced me to constantly assess my work and my voice. With a growing desire to pare down my paintings to the essential elements of shape, light, movement, and depth, I am determined to capture the essence of a moment on canvas.

My work with acrylics has encouraged my style to have expressive brushwork as working with this medium begs for speed. Often, where paint is placed is where it stays, and working quickly leads to a more expressive and intuitive response to the paint and canvas. This ability to work freely and quickly has pushed my style as an artist beyond representational to a more contemporary interpretation while maintaining the integrity of the physical landscape. You'll see more unblended brushwork and purposefully placed color overlaid on what would be a more traditional painted landscape.

My goal in painting is to capture a specific moment: a moment that took my breath away or made me pause. One that feels alive and exciting or peaceful and still; often a study of contrasts. I want to be able to draw the viewer into this place without overstating details (allowing them to recognize the place relative to their own lives and stories); this involves a beautiful play of push and pull with the paint: push the clouds back along the horizon line while pulling forward the upper clouds closer to the viewer. This depth is achieved with glazes to make something recede and opaque, heavier brushwork to pull portions of the painting closer. Building proper perspective with line and imagery (sketching and layout) work hand in hand with the glazes to create the illusion of space. This illusion of space and depth is very important to me as an artist as I want to create a painting that you can visually enter and be present in.

This push and pull is also a vital part of building movement within the painting as it adds to the illusion of depth. The movement is further developed with free expression of shape, simplifying the overall details to basic shapes, think ovals or expressive lines that lead the eye to support the movement. I am very careful to work out composition with focused cropping of reference material and thumbnail sketches, placing things where I want them in order to capture the moment that caught my eye in the first place. Simplifying what I see to overall shapes forces the composition to be seen and understood at it's most basic form. From here I can create that initial capture of the moment without getting lost in the story.

Glazes are used one again to help capture light, as the luminosity that can be achieved by placing translucent colors over one another is brilliant. It is a delicate balance of thin layers building up to thicker layers, leaving the heaviest paint to be added last as a final flourish, often to draw your eye to the focal point or move you through the painting. Landscapes are alive, living moments, which is why light is so important. Painting light to make it read well involves having proper contrast, and finding the right amount to create the mood of the moment is achieved here once again with the application of glazes and heavier more opaque brushwork. Typically the higher the contrast the better as it really helps to create the focus for the painting; there is never any light without shadow.

I get this canvas and this moment to say something that I hope will create an emotional response, a breath, trigger a memory or take you to a place you can recognize or relate to. Art has an incredible power of bringing the subject to life and I love to create a slightly exaggerated visual description to emphasize it.

## SELECTED EXHIBITION HISTORY

### SOLO AND GROUP SHOWS

2025	Group Show w/Michaela Hoppe and Richard Cole, Gibson Fine Art – February 20 - March 8
2024	Solo Show, Crown and Press Gallery, Hamilton Ontario January 13 - February 3 Squarefoot Show - December
2023	Solo Exhibition - Highlever Diner, Edmonton, Alberta - April - May (showing with local guest artist Anne DeJong). The Mix Summer Vibes Group Show - Gibson Fine Art - June/July - w/Charlie Easton, Sheila Kernan, and Shelley Mansel
2022	“Squarefoot Show” February - Julie DeBoer and friends - Painting the West - Julia Veenstra online show “Squarefoot Show” Autumn - Headliner Artist with Lori Meeboer, Brian Miller and Andrea England “Squarefoot Show” December - Julia Veenstra and Friends
2021	Group Show with gallery artists at The Lloyd Gallery, Penticton, BC November 18 - December 2 “Squarefoot Show” November 3-6 - Julia Veenstra online show “This Land is Our Land” Gibson Fine Art - July 20 - September 11 The Studio Exhibit - Art on 9th Invermere May 1 - July 26 Squarefoot Show April 21 - 23 - Julia Veenstra online show Life Outside Gear Exchange, Saskatoon, SK. April/May - guest joint show with Kathryn Gorectke Art Highlevel Diner Solo Show (February/March) – Highlevel Diner, Edmonton, Alberta
2020	Gibson Fine Art Prairie Show - Featured Artist January Lloyd Gallery Spring Group Show – April
2018/2019	Through a Prairie Lens – June 27 - July 31 Three Sisters Gallery, Canmore, Alberta. Joint show with artist Kathryn Gorectke of Kathryn Gorectke Art Highlevel Diner Solo Show (December/January) – Highlevel Diner, Edmonton, Alberta
2017	Our Canada Project - 150 original landscape paintings for Canada’s 150th birthday – September 5 - October 31 - Three Sisters Gallery, Canmore, Alberta. Showing with artist Kathryn Gorectke of Kathryn Gorectke Art. Celebrating Canadian Art Exhibition - Art Society of Strathcona County - October 2017 - The Loft Gallery, Sherwood Park, Alberta Calgary Stampede - Western Showcase Art Show and Sale - Calgary, Alberta Beauty of Canada Exhibition - Federation of Canadian Artists - June - International Gallery and FCA gallery

- 2016 Highlevel Diner Solo Show October/November - Edmonton, Alberta  
 Wet Paint - Colors of Humanity Art Gallery's September online Show  
[www.colorsofhumanityartgallery.com](http://www.colorsofhumanityartgallery.com) Received HONORABLE MENTION for  
 "The Boat Lock"  
 Camrose Artwalk - Sacred Arts Cafe, Camrose, Alberta July 8 - Sept 6  
 Calgary Stampede Western Showcase Art Show and Sale - Calgary, Alberta July 6 -18  
 BestYEG\_Artists Exhibition - Alberta Society of Artists - Walterdale Playhouse,  
 Edmonton, Alberta July 5 - 16  
 Friends of LCBI Art Show/Sale – 330 Design Group, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
 40th Anniversary Winter Festival Juried Art Show & Sale Mann Art Gallery, Prince Albert,  
 Saskatchewan  
 Sunrise Village Art Gala Sunrise Village, Camrose, Alberta
- 2015 30th Anniversary Open Spring Art Show Art Society of Strathcona Country, Sherwood  
 Park, Alberta.  
 THIRD PLACE in the ADVANCED ARTIST CATEGORY for "Off the Rocks"  
 Water-Line: Inspiration for Change Studio C Gallery, Los Angeles, California.  
 Friends of LCBI Art Show/Sale – 330 Design Group, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.
- 2014 Scenes from Western Canada Federation of Canadian Artists, Vancouver, B.C.  
 International Snow Science Workshop (ISSW) Banff, Alberta  
 Camrose Art Walk - Camrose, Alberta  
 Solo Show Millcreek Café, Edmonton, Alberta  
 Solo Show Café Haven, Sherwood Park, Alberta
- 2010-2013 Painting and teaching art class at the Lantern Church, Calgary, Alberta (2013)

## **NOTEWORTHY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **EDUCATION**

Mastrius Mentorship with Master Artist Mark Heine – January - March 2021  
Doug Swinton Workshop – February, 2020 – Calgary, Alberta  
Doug Swinton Workshop – March, 2018 – Calgary, Alberta  
Mastering Acrylics II with David Langevin – September, 2017 – Sherwood Park, Alberta  
Mastering Acrylics Workshop with David Langevin – May, 2017 – Calgary, Alberta  
David Schkolny Workshop – still life – 2016 – Sherwood Park, Alberta  
Interior Design Degree – Mount Royal College, Calgary, Alberta 2003

### **AWARDS**

Canada 150 in 150 medallion – July 2017

“Wet Paint” - Colors of Humanity Art Gallery’s September online Show [www.colorsofhumanityart-gallery.com](http://www.colorsofhumanityart-gallery.com) Received HONORABLE MENTION for “The Boat Lock” - 2016

THIRD PLACE in the ADVANCED ARTIST CATEGORY for “Off the Rocks” – Art Society of Strathcona County – 2015

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Artist’s Magazine July/August 2025 “The Farmer’s Daughter.”  
International Artist Magazine June/July 2024 “Grand Gestures.”  
International Artist Magazine June/July 2022 “Pulled Into The Scene.”  
Galleries West Artist Feature January 2020  
George, Gary – Editor in Chief. “Prairies and Acrylics” More of Our Canada Magazine, March 2018  
Jacob, Wendy – Features Editor: “Find your Canadian Style Quiz,” House and Home Magazine, online.  
<https://houseandhome.com/quiz/find-outdoor-decorating-style-quiz/>  
  
Harcourt, Patricia: “Local Artist’s Paintings Accepted into Juried Show”, Tofield Murcery, vol. 97, No. 15, November 2014, p. 10

Dyrland, Holly (compiler) “The Artistry of Life, An Introduction to an Artists Portfolio”, Blurb 2015

### **COLLECTIONS**

Works held in private collections in Canada, USA, Sweden, Germany, and Australia.

## **GALLERY REPRESENTATION**

The Lloyd Gallery, Penticton, BC  
Gibson Fine Art, Calgary, AB  
The Crown and Press Gallery, Hamilton, ON  
Mayberry Fine Art, Winnipeg, MB  
The Cloud Gallery, Orillia, ON  
Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON