

ELIZABETH LENNIE

ARTIST STATEMENT / BIO

Elizabeth Lennie lives in mid-town Toronto, Canada. Her paintings are collected internationally, and are included in the collections of the Canadian Hockey Hall of Fame, the University of Virginia Children's Hospital, Centre Hospital S.F. and the Naples Grande, Florida.

"Water has been the backdrop to the significant events in my life. The reconstruction of radiant moments that exist in memory determine the images I choose to paint, of swimming in the liquid landscapes of northern Ontario and the aqua waters of the Caribbean. I work with oil paint on canvas, layering thin washes with thicker impasto. The images are often figurative and explore the dual reality of the Canadian hot and cold climate. The paintings are the map of my unconscious world, a journal in both abstract and narrative form. I look for archetypes in an attempt to explore notions of self within the landscape of shared memory. By isolating and extracting vibrant colours in a signature soft-focus style, a liquid landscape is explored, revealing the imagined mythography of our connected lives." - Elizabeth Lennie

"How remarkable it is that you have chosen as two of your recurring themes, swimming in summer in the Canadian Shield, and skating on those same lakes when winter descends. Remarkable because you have lived your whole life in Canada, in Ontario even, and yet you have understood what is best about the place where you live. Most people have to move far away to figure that sort of thing out. They can only understand the nature of the mountain when they have seen it from the plain. You, my dear friend, have the wisdom to see the beauty of where you are, while you are there, and that ability is as rare as...the world becoming a skating rink over which you can fly." - Johnny Wales, Sado Island, Japan