

CORY TRÉPANIÉ

INTO THE ARCTIC

Artist Statement

The subject of nature and the wilderness has been the focus of my art for most of my life. I am moved by the scenes that I encounter while out painting with their varying textures, colour, smells, sound and changing light.

In my quest as an artist to seek out the most remote and still wild landscapes in my home country, I have pushed north. Way north. Past the tree line. Above the Arctic Circle. Deep into the Canadian Arctic.

My approach to painting the Arctic is rooted in getting to know my subject firsthand through in-depth, extensive painting expeditions. These journeys, where day to day living is often simplified to the basics of hiking boots, food and a tent for shelter, strip away the layers of civilization that accumulate in the studio, and prepares my mind to experience nature's awe more fully.

Leaving the comforts and predictability of home behind to paint in the wild has a way of imposing a healthy dose of humility and respect onto a person. Being a mere spec in some of the most raw, vast and at times dangerous wilderness on earth also has led to a deeper appreciation for the lands that I portray on canvas.

This approach is a critical starting point to my work. My art studies and training have filled me with head knowledge about colour, composition, perspective, balance, design, history, art movements and more and this might well lead to creating art that is appealing. But I strive to do more than the literal representation of my subjects. Above all else, I hope to impart to those that view my work a sense of awe that I experience while I'm out there. To go beyond realistic interpretation, and connect with others past the eyes, into the mind, and maybe even to stir up an emotional response. It is my greatest reward as artist when this takes place. In this world flooded with instant digital images that often reduce human experiences to pixel filled snapshots, it is rewarding to know that each hand laid brush stroke has the potential to transcend time and place.

With the changing northern environment, I also hope that with enough sweat, struggle and passion, the resulting paintings I create will be seen by generations into the future, at a time when our Arctic may be completely different from what we now see.

Lastly, I hope others are inspired by these distant lands I explore and paint, and that this furthers an appetite to care for them more.

Cory Trépanier's INTO THE ARCTIC

A traveling museum exhibition of Canadian Arctic oil paintings by Cory Trépanier

Produced by David J. Wagner L.L.C.

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Exhibition artwork, video journals, photographs, and more at: intotheartctic.com

