

CHRISTINA PARKER

GALLERY

RON BOLT NEW PAINTINGS

Bolt's career began some fifty years ago. The early paintings were abstracts but the work always had a sense of landscape about it. The paintings turned inward toward realism and a fascination for the sea at a conjunction of events in the early 70s. Like many of us, he observes the degradation and destruction of the environment with growing alarm. "We are quite possibly living in the twilight of the natural world as we know it. In that regard, my work is an act of preservation. To preserve a natural world is to preserve a language of the wind and shifting light, of stillness, silence and space."

Bolt's work is concerned with the natural environment and fits most completely into what has been described as the "Northern Romantic Tradition." His imagery of the sea and coastal



A Cold Morning, Oil on panel, 24 × 24", 2024

regions has taken him to three coasts of Canada, the Caribbean and Europe. In 2000 he was awarded the position as Artist in Residence at Gros Morne National Park, Newfoundland, and in 2002 he spent a month as guest artist of the U.S. National Park Service in the Mohave Desert of southern California.

"One of the most difficult things to paint with any degree of realism is the sea. I am not talking here simply about seaside or beach-size pictures, with incidentals, such as human figures to give scale. I am speaking, rather, of attempts to represent the ocean in all its elemental grandeur."

—Edward Lucie Smith, celebrated British writer, poet and art critic, from a catalogue essay for an exhibition of Bolt's paintings at Albemarle Gallery in London, England.



Transcendent Night, Conception Bay, Oil on panel, 24 × 24", 2024



Sparkle High, Conception Bay, Oil on panel, 24 × 48", 2024

Bolt uses the camera as a compositional tool, a way of gathering detailed visual information. "It is not my goal to make a perfect photograph," he states. "As a painter I have learned that photographs are deceptive, providing either too much or too little information, often of a contradictory nature. The creative method involves manipulating that information... It's also a refining process that shapes a personal wonderment into a clearer, more powerful statement."

RON BOLT (RCA) was born in Toronto in 1938. His career spans over 60 years. As a painter and printmaker, he has held over 75 solo exhibitions in public and commercial galleries in Canada and has participated in numerous group exhibitions in the United States, Mexico, England, Japan and China. His commissions include government murals, several books and numerous corporate and private installations.

His paintings, prints and limited edition books are in the collections of museums, public galleries and major libraries in Canada and abroad.

Ron Bolt was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts in 1986, and served as its 27th President from 2000 to 2002. He was awarded the Canada 125 Medal in 1992, the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 2003 and the RCA's Centennial Medallion in 2005.

Bolt's love of Newfoundland and Labrador began in the summer of 1971 when he spent 3 weeks in Hibb's Cove working with the Outport Arts Foundation teaching art to children. Since then he has returned to the province many times, including as Artist in Residence at Gros Morne National Park and as a participant in the Visiting Artists Program at St. Michael's Printshop.