

CHRISTINA PARKER

GALLERY

DIANA DABINETT LIMINAL SPACES

“Ideas, like waves, have fetches. They arrive with us having travelled vast distances, and their pasts are often invisible, or barely imaginable.”

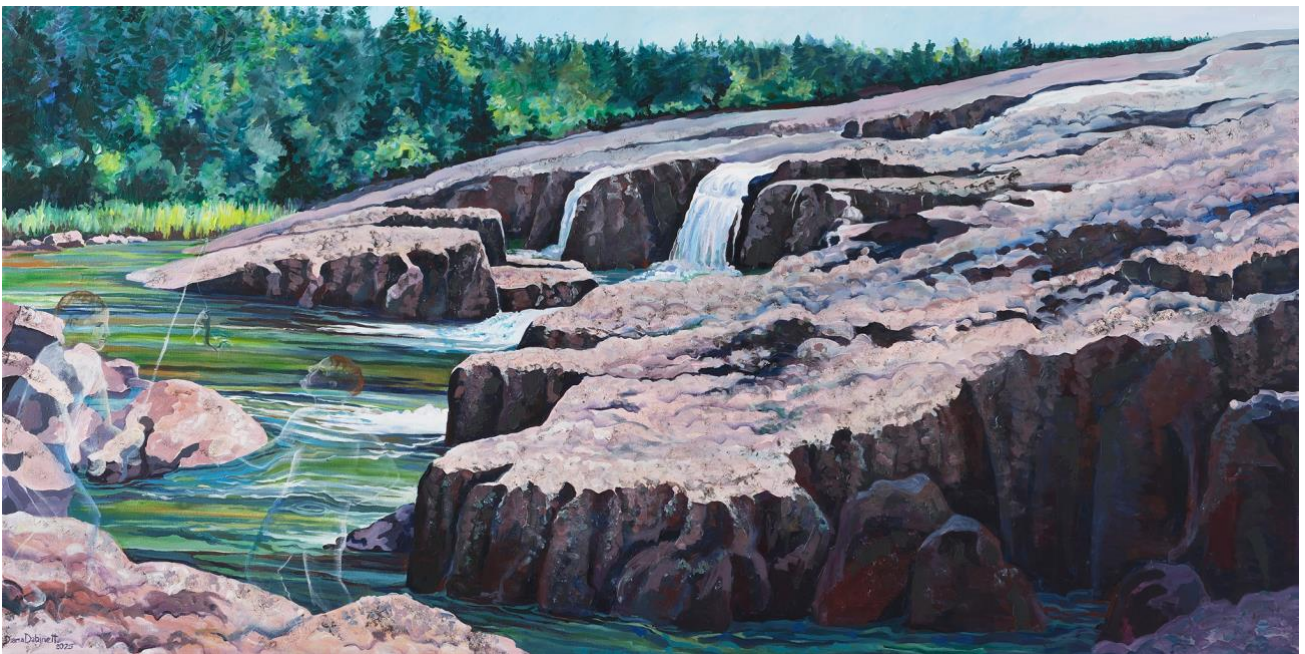
—Robert Macfarlane

Liminal spaces are places of transition, where we move from one place to another. They can also be psychological, such as when you feel you are on the verge of something new, or the period between sleep and wakefulness. Liminal comes from the Latin word for “threshold”, and can also be used to describe something barely perceptible.

After 46 years living on the East Coast Trail in Shoe Cove I moved to St. John’s.

Almost all of my life I have lived close to the natural environment which has been the focus of my artwork, but this move created a need for me to refocus my subject matter from the boreal forest and Atlantic cliffs to an urban environment.

In addition to my egg tempera paintings of Dawn, this body of work includes many large and small acrylics of various views along the city trails. My focus was on the movement of water as it progressed turbulently towards the sea, but I became aware of the many passing walkers along the paths. In these paintings you can see the ephemeral, almost mystical presence of people as they pause and move along. The rushing waters of the rivers are always there, but the visitors only leave a slight spiritual interruption. In these works I have used layers of crushed Mulberry Bark paper and heavy gel medium to create the rough texture of the undergrowth and rocks.



Fishing in Manuels River Waterfall, Acrylic on canvas, 36 × 72", 2025



Dawn, Through the Narrows, Egg tempera on panel, 23.5 × 31.5", 2023

DIANA DABINETT was born in Zimbabwe in 1943. After completing a BFA and Secondary Teacher's Diploma in Cape Town, she taught in high schools in Zimbabwe and England before moving to London, Ontario in 1969 to become assistant curator at the Art Gallery of London. In 1975, Diana moved to Newfoundland and Labrador and since then she has maintained a full time professional studio art practise from her home and studio in Shoe Cove and her new studio in St. John's. She has exhibited in over 70 solo and group exhibitions, and in 2018 she was awarded the ArtsNL Artists' Achievement Award.

Diana Dabinett's work is found in the public collections of The Provincial Art Bank, NL, the City of St. John's, the Canada Council Art Bank, Foreign Affairs Canada, the University of Western Ontario, and many private collections around the world including Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Diana has completed over 15 site specific commissioned works for public spaces

such as the Manuel's River Hibernia Interpretation Centre, the Deer Lake Airport, the Fluvarium, St. John's, Labrador Health Centre, Goose Bay, and Community Hospital in Monterey, California.



Cascading Water on Waterford Linear Trail, Acrylic on canvas, 36 × 48", 2025