## CHRISTINA PARKER

## MIKE GOUGH FOREVER AND EVER

Mike Gough is a visual artist living in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. Gough's fascination with the elusive nature of memory has been the focus of much of his work. His paintings are deeply autobiographical, depicting scenes from his youth in western Newfoundland. However, they tell stories that are universally relatable. Gough depicts a story that is uniquely and intimately his, while welcoming the viewer to see it as their own tale.

Forever and Ever is an extension of Gough's most recent work that brings together landscape and narrative. The series features images inspired by the provincial landscape and by photographs collected during travels to the west coast and the Bonavista Peninsula in the summer of 2022.



For Someone I Miss, Acrylic on panel, 36 × 36", 2022



September Walk, Acrylic on panel, 14" diameter, 2022

"I'm interested in the permanence and endurance of our environment," writes Gough, "and in contrast I think of the transient and fragile nature of life. When we gaze upon picturesque mountains and serene seascapes, how many before us have done the same? For how long have these places inspired artists, musicians and writers? How many people have put down roots here and called this place home? The history and memory that is held in the landscape is captivating and something I hope to translate in my work."

While Gough has a formal approach to painting – using structural intrusions, figures in transit and interior framing – his hope is create harmony and narrative. "Beyond the surface of the landscape are stories," he writes, "and a personal history or connection for those who engage with it."



Morning, Acrylic on panel, 30 × 60", 2022

MIKE GOUGH was born in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. He attended Sir Wilfred Grenfell College and completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts. In 2009/2010 he attended Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London, England where he received a Masters of Fine Arts. Mike's work has appeared in exhibitions in Canada, the UK and France, and is part of both private and public collections in England and Canada.



Here Forever, Acrylic on panel, 30 × 60", 2022