

CHRISTINA PARKER

G A L L E R Y

MIKE FANTUZ PLACES WE ARE FOUND

I am a part of all that I have met

—Tennyson, *Ulysses*

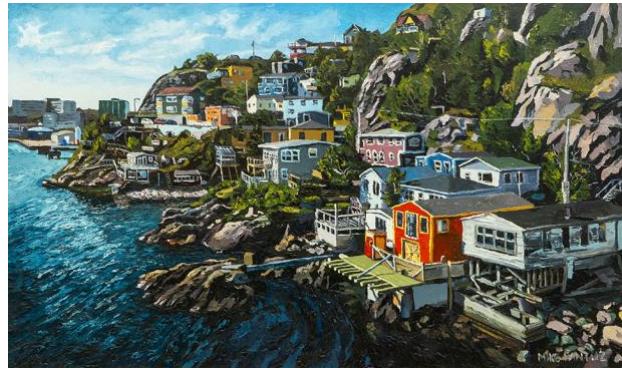
A sense of place resonates as more than mere background. A hillside, a river, the ocean, an iconic building, even the traditions, customs, and relationships within a community all contribute its identity. The exploration of places inspires us to seek what is beyond our sights, to expand our personal growth and fulfilment, even finding new meaning in the familiar.

In this exhibition, Emilie and Mike Fantuz use a variety of artistic techniques to illustrate the impact of the experience of place, showing how different perceptions of St. John's have singularly affected them.

Mike portrays a holistic overview of the urban and coastal landscape. Through the use of drone imagery and aeronautical charts, he focuses intensely upon the complexity of a vast landscape, giving meaning and coherence to the details of place which recur in our daily lives.

Both Emilie and Mike fully respond to the life altering aspects of place, seemingly static but always changing. Mike, returning to the land and viewing his former home mirrored by the past, retrospectively highlights what he left behind during his absence.

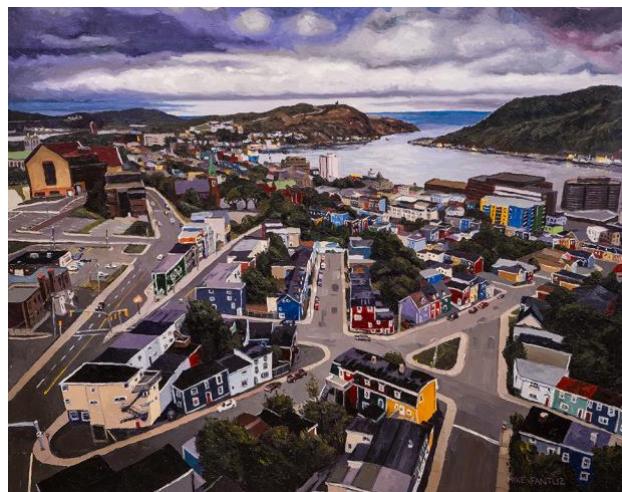
In this exhibition, intense colour and intricate division of space testify to the transformative role of place that the artists have realized anew in the city of St. John's. Through the exploration of place, it is often the unexpected things we find within that contribute to the incremental path of growth.



The Outer Battery, Oil on canvas, 36 x 60", 2023



The Cities Pulse, Oil on canvas, 36 x 48", 2023



Thoughts We Have Weathered, Oil on canvas, 48 x 60", 2022



Where I Search, There I'm Found, Oil on canvas, 60 x 84", 2023

MIKE FANTUZ is a Canadian artist known for his palette knife paintings depicting the urban landscape in the American Realism style. Using inherited palette knives and thick application of paint, he investigates the aerial perspective informed by his extensive experience in the aviation industry as an air traffic controller and pilot. His passion for the urban landscape of Newfoundland and Labrador developed over the decade he spent living and working in the province.

Work by Mike Fantuz has appeared in exhibitions in Canada, the USA and the UK and is found in public and corporate collections including The Rooms Provincial Art Bank, Fortis Incorporated (NL and BC), Marco Construction, The Delta Hotel St. John's, and in numerous private collections around the world, including in Canada, the United States, Norway, Italy, and England.