

CHRISTINA PARKER

GALLERY

NED PRATT RHYTHM IN PLACE

"In 2022 I began working in a new proportion, 32 × 64". Essentially, these dimensions represent two squares. The change in composition offers me a new versatility and the opportunity for a more rhythmic composition. It permits me to get further back from my subject matter and changes the way I see the landscape.

"I am a simple photographer. My ideas are simple but focused and sincere. Throughout my career I have concentrated on the island of Newfoundland for my imagery. Personal history, family, memories, and sympathy toward this land and its forms are the backbone of my work. The objective in my practice has never been to treat the land as a device but to consider it to be a living poem, ancient, and written by many cultures. The photographs are not of anything that is mine, but rather images that my life has been privileged to observe."

Pratt carefully constructs his imagery with the push and pull of foreground and background often found in painting. Influences from painting masters such as Piet Mondrian, Mark Rothko and Turner are seemingly apparent through the artist's use of mood, colour and composition.

In the work *Aikens Wall*, Ned Pratt captures a concrete building under construction that has its roots in the simplicity of Modernist architecture. His understanding of the formal beauty in the structure of the building and the placement of the windows elevates the building as a structure of elegance and integrity. The title is a nod to Robert Aiken, the engineer who developed the modern advancement of tilt-up construction.

In *Spring on the Barrens*, we see how the light through a warming earth and cooling onshore wind forms a thick morning mist, tricking the eye into thinking that the barrens are a flat mass but at extreme ends of the day, the quiet beauty of their complexity is revealed.



Aikens Wall, Pigment inkjet print, 32 × 64", 2023



Shadows on the Sea Fret, Pigment inkjet print, 32 × 64", 2022

In *Shadows on the Sea Fret*, we are reminded of J.M.W. Turner's evocative atmospheric painting, *The Lagoon Near Venice at Sunset*. The photograph reveals through the fog, a dreamy shadow of the artist's house in Cape Pine and the light house next to it, cast on the side of the sea fret from the intense sun setting behind, a chance happening, like a gift from another place.

The photography of Ned Pratt flows between representational and abstraction, architectural and landscape imagery. Having a strong formal understanding to begin with, Pratt experiments with pushing boundaries to find a necessary tension in the photograph for a silent sense of the sublime. "The images are quiet, simple, complex, threatening and peaceful – but always beautiful."



Two Ponds at Dusk, Pigment inkjet print, 32 × 64", 2022

NED PRATT was born in Salmonier, NL, and lives in St. John's. He holds a BFA in photography from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and a BA in art history from Acadia University.

Ned's photography has been exhibited at the former Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, PREFIX Photo, the Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival, and at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. His work has been written about in various publications, including *Canadian Art*, *CBC Arts*, *Momus*, and *Mason Journal*.

Ned's photographs are held in major public and corporate collections across Canada, the United States, Europe, and Australia.



Crowleys Property, Pigment inkjet print, 32 × 64", 2022