Mountain Galleries is proud to Present an Exhibition of New Work by Canadian Artist Nicholas Bott

Artist Feature: Nicholas Bott

Impressionist painter Nicholas Bott draws on his vast experiences travelling throughout Canada's most remote locations and the Arctic to create some of Canada's most vibrant and exciting landscape paintings. Originally from the Netherlands, Nicholas Bott's work is an energetic blend of Dutch and Canadian influences, such as Vincent Van Gogh and the Group of Seven. With an exhibition of new work opening March 28, 2020 at Mountain Galleries Whistler, Nick's flair for capturing the heart and soul of nature will be on full display.

Nicholas Bott immigrated to Smithers British Columbia at the age of seventeen, where he was immediately awe- struck by the grandeur of the Canadian landscape, beginning a life- long passion for Canadian art. Bott's painting career began when he started his own sign painting company in Smithers and Prince Rupert which inspired him to get involved in the fine arts, and he began taking classes at the University of British Columbia. It wasn't until he met fellow artist Robert Genn, however, that he decided to pursue a full- time career as a landscape artist.

Using vibrant, thick brushstrokes to form idyllic landscapes which capture the majesty of nature, the viewer can't help but become emotionally attached to Nick's paintings. Working with oil, Nick focuses on the texture, tone, lines, shapes, colour, and space found within the landscape. This methodical approach to his work means Nick spends a lot of time planning before putting a brush to the canvas. Describing a typical work- day Nick says, "The day before I start painting, I study the requirements of composition and the mysteries of line, color and harmony, then I am ready to paint for the day."

Spending time in remote locations has helped Bott form an appreciation for the scenes he paints. His trips to the Arctic Circle in particular have had an immense influence on his art. He states that, "The ice, the open spaces and being isolated from the rest of the world, left me with a profound interest in philosophic and spiritual concerns, just like Lawren Harris did when he visited the Arctic." Nick's frequent trips to the Yukon, and to Gitskan and Wet'suwet'en villages, the Stikine River, and Babine Lake, has enabled Bott to create a catalogue of art which embraces the many wonders of the Canadian wilderness. Regardless if Bott is painting an arctic village scene, forest scene, or a mountainscape, his paintings convey the idea that nature is a vast and dignified life force that connects us all.

Looking back on his career Nick has one piece of advice that he takes to heart. "Keep practicing," he says. "Practice and experiment." It is his willingness to experiment that

has helped Nick's work stand out at home and abroad. Using a wide palette of colours in a single painting, Nick has mastered the ability to capture the light and its capacity to dazzle and illuminate. In 2020 Nick is determined to continue creating the best work he can with colour and vitality.

In 2005 Nick's friend and fellow artist Tim Schumm introduced Nick to Mountain Galleries at the Fairmont, and he has steadily become one of our most commented on artists. We are excited to continue supporting Nick's career, and in March 2020 Mountain Galleries Whistler location is presenting an exhibition of some of Nick's best works. Visitors will be greeted with a delightful array of Nick's Arctic scenes, more vibrant landscapes, as well as some experimental work featuring colour, texture, and composition.

Written by Christine De Brabandere, Assistant Curator, Mountain Galleries Banff