

## MIKE FANTUZ

Michael Fantuz's vision is fed by extensive travel and experience in aviation and exploration. His large-scale palette knife works invite the viewer above and into his aerial perspective on landscapes and cityscapes.

The paint is thickly applied, bold in colour, and based in Fantuz's discipline to limit his tools to palette knives only. This forces an intuitive engagement with the colour and density of the materials over the minute precision that smaller brushes would afford. Both the knife stroke and paint viscosity determine an aesthetic that reflects movement and abstraction; the stroke is wider, with bold impasto edges. This invites attention to tone, hue, contrast, and a more open compositional focus, which Fantuz embraces. The subject is seen from a distance rather than in tight close-up. Bright contrasts evoke the dynamic light play across a broad perspective visible only from a distance.

Fantuz's connection with his subjects and materials is personal and felt. He inherited his pallet knives from his grandfather, whose own artistic practice spanned decades. The knives carry layers of artistic legacy. Fantuz also brings his close relationship with landscapes to the canvas. His exploration work across multiple locations, as well as his aviation work above them, inform a broad perspective on our larger surroundings.

Bringing this perspective to his studio work is a meditation on the power of art to connect the painter and viewer alike to something larger than ourselves. Fantuz strives to honour this power. Quiet hours spent creating in the studio have a settling effect from mundane distractions and obstacles, opening avenues to larger levels of experience. Fantuz seeks these avenues in his time at the easel, with confidence that an individual's deeper experience is closer to our collective experience, and that the viewer can enter along with him into the scale, perspective, and vision of his works.

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

### Solo

**2014 Imagined Homelands**, Christina Parker Gallery, St. John's NL

**2012 Between Tides**, Christina Parker Gallery St. John's NL

**2010 The Resettlement of Grand Bruit**, Christina Parker Gallery, St. John's, NL

**2005 The Loop**, Gander Arts and Culture

### Group

**2020 Summer Group Exhibition**, Ian Tan Gallery, Vancouver, BC

**2017 Revisiting the Rural**, Christina Parker Gallery, St. John's, NL

2342 Granville Street Vancouver British Columbia V6H 3G3 CANADA 604-738-1077

[www.iantangallery.com](http://www.iantangallery.com) [info@iantangallery.com](mailto:info@iantangallery.com)

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**2010 Arts and Letters**, The Rooms, St. John's, NL

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**2009 Craft Council Annual Fair**, St Johns Arts and Culture Centre, St. John's, NL

**2008 Craft Council Annual Fair**, St Johns Convention Centre, St. John's, NL

**2006 Two Perspectives**, Joint Exhibit, Gander Arts and Culture, Gander, NL

## SELECTED AWARDS

**2010 Commission** for album cover Newman Sound Men's Choir

**2009 Commission** for design and presentation of logo art for the Gander Triathlon

**2009 Newfoundland and Labrador Arts and Letters Award**, senior division visual art "Delta to the Narrows"

**2008 Newfoundland and Labrador Arts and Letters Award**, senior division visual art "South Shore Fire, 1901"

**2006 Adjudicators Choice**, "All around the Circle", Gander Arts and Culture

**2005 Peoples Choice**, "All around the Circle", Gander Arts and Culture

## SELECTED MEDIA

**2019, Border Crossing Magazine**, "The Oil Paintings of Michael Fantuz"

**2014, Radio Canada International**, Interview with Marc Montgomery

**2013, Arabella Magazine**, "Artist to Collect", Kylie Serebrin

**2012 Riddlefence** issue 19 art contributor

**2010 The Telegram**, Visual Arts Top Ten, Joan Sullivan

**2010 The Telegram** November 2010, review for solo "Settled", Joan Sullivan

**2010 The Newfoundland Herald**, "A Portrait of Resettlement", Sarah Shepperd

**2009 Interview** with Gander Beacon, Arts and Letter Award

**2005 Interview with CBC** radio Michael Aucoin for "The Loop"

**2005 Skywave's Gander**, television interview with Gina Brown for solo show "The Loop"

## SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Fortis BC

Fortis Newfoundland and Labrador

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Delta Hotel

Newman Sound Mens Choir

Central Health Foundation

Gander Hospital

Town Square Family Dental, Gander

Gander Massage Therapy

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