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As an artist one can take inspiration from just about anything. It all depends on how you look at things. With the land there is so much inspiration right at the surface. There is colour, form, line; pattern, contrast and texture just to name a few. All of these things go into any dynamic piece of work.

To me there is also a spiritual connection when I paint. It's not there all the time but when I am working and forms and images and ideas start flowing it is as if that is what I was meant to do. The spiritual side is also present when I am outside and see how the colours and forms interact with one another. When I see the harmony that exists in seeming chaos I feel that there is a God that has provided for us and has blessed us with many gifts.

I don't really see my work as a metaphor to communicate with my ancestors. If anything it is more of a reflection of the values I have received from my family. Values like work ethic and respect for the land.

Like most artists I hope to reach as wide an audience as possible. People looking at my work hopefully can come away with a new perspective on how a landscape can be portrayed. Perhaps they can walk away with new appreciation say, for a leafless stand of trees in early winter.

The materials I use do somehow relate to my work. I enjoy painting on wood, be it bare, or with canvass stretched over it. Not only does it provide a solid surface for the various techniques I use, but in some instances the wood is also part of the composition. Scratching back into the wood can create a drawing technique where the lines in the trees are actually wood. Other times I like to add things to the paintings in the form of collage to help convey a physical aspect.

It is inevitable that our modern world changes how we see nature. Look at google Earth. You don't even have to leave your basement to see what is going on 2 blocks away. In fact my view of nature has changed throughout my life. I grew up on a farm with the land at my disposal. Now in my urban environment I look for many of the same visual relations that exist in both. For most people today the urban environment is their first contact with nature. Compartmentalized sections of nature offered up for viewing pleasure. Greenspaces set aside for plants and trees to be enjoyed. Zoos to see animals. All fenced off, and danger significantly reduced.

My colour pallet has changed too. I now see the aesthetic value of browns grays, washed out hues that exist in our increasingly industrialized world. Art is still a good way to communicate these ideas. Having said that if no one sees the work then of course it does not make an effect. That is the key isn't it? Getting people to see the work. Many people are intimidated by art that isn't a straightforward mountain or moose or what have you. It is our job as the artist to let people know that their interpretation of the work is just a valid, if not more so, than the artist's because it is from their collective experience and perspective that a work derives its meaning. We put the work out there and it is now in the minds of the viewer to give it meaning or value.