

## **Kym Greeley – TCH**

The geography of Newfoundland has been a primary source of inspiration for the visual arts from the outset. The earliest colonial images documented the terrain, and many of the province's most accomplished artists have used the rugged landscape as a subject, and as a metaphor for the environmental challenges faced by Newfoundland society. Kym Greeley's recent paintings draw on this history, but use a unique method to invest her work with meaning beyond the romanticized landscape work more commonly created.

Rather than producing isolated coastlines devoid of manmade elements, Greeley's activity seeks to integrate the common elements of our interventions into nature. The highway, along with accompanying power lines, is included and acts to graphically formalize a representation at odds with our idealized notion of nature. Greeley includes within the frame the primary means by which we enter and view nature.

In order to distill this relationship of road to vista, Greeley uses a highly formalized approach, producing small computer-generated sketches which she faithfully translates onto larger canvases. Executed in solid fields of colour, with no modulation of tone, the works have an almost machine-like graphic exactness, with the fine details of the road median and power lines produced by silk-screening over the broader forms. This disciplined method, with its removal of the hand of the artist in the work, creates a flattened, graphic surface that operates at a distance from the subject: an abstracted document of specific landscapes as seen from the road.

In creating these dynamic works, Greeley provides a route to a new understanding of our relationship to nature, highlighting and challenging our preconceived ideal of nature. The pursuit of the sublime is replaced in these paintings with a unique realism that pulls back to expose an essential contradiction; we drive through nature, an image more than a place.

**Gordon Laurin** has over 25 years of experience working in the visual arts as a gallery director, curator, and practicing artist. He is currently based in St. John's where he works as the Administrative Coordinator for the new artist-run A1C Gallery.