

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

MARA KORKOLA received her MFA from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 1997, a BFA from Wichita State University in 1994, and is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design.

Selected public and group exhibitions include High Roads and Low Roads, Museum of Fine Arts, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, 2006; Commuter, MacLaren Art Centre, Barrie, ON, 2004; Painting as Paradox, Artists Space, New York, NY, 2002; and Synthetic Psychosis, Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, Toronto, ON, 2002.

Korkola is held in numerous corporate collections including Bell Mobility, Hydro Quebec, Ministry of Natural Resources, Fidelity Investments, Scotiabank and McCarthy Tetrault LLP. She has received many awards and distinctions including Mid-Career grants from the Ontario Arts Council, 2007 and 2005.

TIME SPENT LOOKING

Riding in taxicabs, planes, buses, and cars, we travel via Mara Korkola's paintings through non-descript places that could be anywhere. We all recognise these landscapes that capture the feeling of looking up at city lights blurred through a rainy windshield at night or peering out of a plane window before take-off at snow swirling across a runway. Mara Korkola's paintings don't record our final destinations; they capture the spaces we all travel through on our separate journeys.

The scenes come alive through Korkola's ability to capture both delicate and startling variations in light. Her paintings span the full range of our observable spectrum: plumbing the blackness of night to the whiteness of a snowy day. Others fall somewhere in-between, focusing on that fleeting moment when day fades to night or night becomes day. The night paintings are executed using bright, pure colours surrounded by the deepest blacks. They are shimmering, twinkling studies of high contrast. The daytime paintings explore the opposite: low-intensity views of winter fields, broken up and defined by glimpses of asphalt, the wing of a plane or a stand of trees. Snow blankets the world around us in these paintings like the night does in the others.

Step up close to the surface of the panels and then step back. Korkola paints a world suspended between representation and abstraction. Up close, the looseness with which she applies the oil paint borders on the abstract. From farther away, the markings coalesce into solid compositions. Korkola pushes and plays with her material to uncover how little she can show in terms of detail and yet still make these common places instantly recognizable. Using long canvases, diptychs and triptychs, she captures the subtle changes in perspective when your head turns or a moment passes. Her paintings are chronicles of time spent looking.

Christine Redfern



No Place 199
oil on aluminum panels, diptych 7.5" x 11" each panel



No Place 197
oil on aluminum panels, diptych 7.5" x 11" each panel

GALLERY PAGE AND STRANGE is a contemporary gallery located in the historic Granville Square of downtown Halifax, Nova Scotia. In close proximity to NSCAD University and other fine art shops and restaurants, the gallery is situated within the heart of the cultural district of the city.

GALLERY
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GALLERY HOURS: Mon - Wed 10am - 5pm • Thu, Fri 10am - 6pm
Sat 11am - 5pm • or by appointment

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MARA KORKOLA

DAYS TO NIGHT

May 1 - 22, 2009

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Winter Was Hard 30 oil on aluminum panels, triptych 7.5" x 11" each panel



No Place 192 oil on aluminum panels, triptych 7" x 9" each panel