



DARLENE HAY

Darlene Hay has been a painter with a keen interest in nature for over 28 years. She combines her love of nature with her enthusiasm for painting to capture the constantly changing colours of our Saskatchewan landscapes. Her recent impressionistic landscapes portray Saskatchewan scenes of lakes and fields with an abundance of wild flowers in the foreground. Her strong, bright colours truly depict the sparkle and splendor of the prairie environment. Darlene encourages the viewer to appreciate the breathtaking beauty of our local landscapes and hopefully be inspired to discover the calming, yet exciting changes that take place all around us.

Darlene Hay is a Canadian artist represented by some galleries in Canada, including The Shayne Gallery.

While Darlene Hay's new body of acrylic paintings celebrates Saskatchewan's wild grasslands and wetlands, they also bring forward some questions about our attachment to these spaces. Following on a widely-exhibited previous body of work entitled *Endangered Spaces*, the current paintings speak obliquely of the destruction of landscapes — something that often goes hand-in-hand with economic development and diversification. These works are more personal.

As aesthetic responses to places she simply likes to visit, they embody a return to her artistic roots — they are informed not only by gestural color-based abstraction, but by the Saskatoon and Emma Lake-centered prairie landscape tradition as well. Impressionistic in execution, Hay's work here exhibits a more individualistic use of color than in the past — rather than pale waning colors, we find her palette more strongly and freely employed. Yet despite the evocative beauty and intimate feeling of these works, we still worry about what is beyond the horizon. In the end, Hay's undisturbed landscapes are clearly only idyllic on the surface.