

# JESS OLSEN

## ARTIST STATEMENT

*Round Trip* is a travel journal via watercolour landscapes documenting the journey between the artist's current home of West Kelowna and her hometown of Smithers.

As the viewer enters the gallery, they begin in the Okanagan and traverse north towards the Bulkley Valley along the peaks of the Rockies then return, cutting through the fields and rivers of the Caribou back to the south. It is an invitation to let themselves be the passenger on the long drive, and to let themselves be distracted by the beauty of the perpetual two-way homecoming.

## ARTIST BIO

Jess Olsen is a contemporary landscape artist living and working in West Kelowna, British Columbia.

She has been painting with watercolor since 2015, after making the switch from digital animation to traditional medium. Her work bridges the line between the two, choosing saturated colors and graphic white linework to create an abstract window into a place more akin in composition to a matte painting than a classic landscape.

Jess' work is less a snapshot and more of a time lapse; Shadows shift over the hour that you're in a spot, the colour of the water changes drastically, wind picks up and moves the leaves above you. People should be able to put themselves into that unreliable, shifting memory of place, and still see the familiar. Watercolour is ideal for this sort of reminiscence, as due to its nature the artist often has to think backwards while painting for greatest effect.