

# Rain, Steam and Speed

## Joy Munt

I am transfixed by a beautiful and deteriorating world of industry juxtaposed amongst the prairies, trees, rivers and coasts. The manufactured world, like the landscape, can be full of nostalgia and symmetry. I think of the words of Simon Sharma's as he describes the painter JMW Turner's quest to represent the power of industry amongst the landscape "instinctively Turner wanted to see if the belching smoke and a cantering train would generate that kind of beauty, what he does is the industrial sublime."

The industrial sublime is all around us. We have grown up around the trains, shipping containers and grain elevators. I choose to paint the elements of industry side by side with natural landscape to create a dialogue. Is it a celebration of industry, recognition of its limitations or simply nostalgia?

This world of industry is my muse for both the sentiment generated by it being a huge part of my landscape memory and for the freedoms it allows us in our daily life. Yet, within the sentiment I have for this deteriorating world of industry is knowledge of the need for environmental change, our landscape depends on it.

My process is evident in my art; it's not something I hide, use and then discard, or disguise. The techniques and tools I employ – layers of pigment, sanding, scraping back, lettering – are there, exposed in the finished work. I have chosen to paint with the tools of trade for my application, my main brush being a power sander and applying layers of paint with rollers, large brushes and scrapers.

*(Rain, Steam and Speed is the title of an 1844 Turner painting of a steam train crossing the river Thames)*

## Biography

Joy Munt was born and raised in Calgary AB. She then moved to BC to attend the University of Victoria, there she received her BFA in Visual arts with a double major in Sociology with a minor in Film Studies.

While attending University Joy's primary focus was photography and video installation, painting became a focus after art school. Drawing upon the idea of what her personal landscape was, Joy found inspiration in the industrial world around her and the cross over from photography to painting had a strong affect on her work. For Joy this meant the process was as much apart of the subject matter as the landscapes themselves.

Now settled in Vancouver, Joy has lived in four different Canadian cities in three provinces. Experiencing the rural and cosmopolitan landscapes of Ontario, Alberta and BC has left an indelible impression on her art. Joy finds much beauty in the constant changing vignettes of the city and its rural counterparts. Inspired by industry, construction and transportation as they play upon their natural landscapes. Evidence of shipping containers, grain elevators, construction and trains are obvious in Joy's work.