

Pat Service: Summer Lake Series

by Anya Georgijevic

Close your eyes. Visualize a peaceful moment from your favorite summer vacation. If you are lucky, you imagined something that might look a little like a painting from the *Summer Lake Series*. These vivacious paintings were painted from memory following a summer spent by the lake. And what a summer it was! Hot, cold, sunny, cloudy, rainy, stormy, loud, quiet, vigorous and still. You might notice that there are no human figures in her landscapes, just evidence of their existence. The beach chairs stand still while canoes and rafts float alone on the water. The emptiness becomes a puzzle, the way a child would describe something from memory, only remembering certain symbols and colours.

Being raised on the coast of British Columbia, Pat Service has been drawn to water as a subject matter for many years. Her paintings' surfaces are marked with expressive colour, reflecting the subtleties of light in both the sky and water. While taking on a grand and noble tradition of landscape painting, Pat Service has held her own style for over three decades. Every landscape lover across the country would be able to recognize a "Service".

Like Cézanne, she is able to describe an object with one simple brush stroke and her strokes are some of the most intriguing: soft but rough, energetic yet still.

"With a wonderful light motion of the brush, you can have a yellow moon in the sky; with another quick gesture, in the water, there is a canoe" Service says.

She borrows from Fauvism with her candid way of referencing nature. She uses colour as an emotional force. The palettes of her skies range in mauves, turquoises, pinks, yellows and of course blues. These abundant pastels would even make Mr. Matisse himself blush a little.

Mischievous, youthful and fresh, *Summer Lake Series* are a reminder of those flawless summer days we all long for...

Anya Georgijevic is an artist and a curator. She graduated from the Alberta College of Art & Design (Calgary) in 2002.