

## **Michael Dunn: Artist Statement**

### Subconscious Landscapes

Sigmund Freud theorized that the subconscious shapes our reality.

Although I am influenced by my surroundings, I don't work directly from nature. I see nature, then reset it in my subconscious mind before painting or drawing. It is not meant to be a replica of what was in front of me or a plein air impression of a particular scene. My landscapes come from a compilation of images and movement. Their meanings are complex and individual for each viewer. Viewers bring their own emotions and memories to the landscapes and create a relationship from within themselves.

Normally, landscapes are in a horizontal format. By turning the orientation, they automatically become something else and more abstract. It is my intention to disrupt the viewers' expectations and alter preconceptions. It is also important for me to simplify the objects so they become metaphors contributing to an abstract approach. I am not interested in a photorealist representation of a scene or object, but of the memories or feelings they instill in the viewer. It is up to the viewer to connect the dots and find their own story and reality.