

AHM Comments re: Smouldering Boreal Series

On May 1, 2016 a forest fire began to engulf the community of Fort McMurray and its environs, eventually affecting approximately 590,000 hectares (1,500,000 acres). It was finally declared under control on July 5, 2016. Attracted to the media coverage phenomenon, with its fervid and intense imagery, I was prompted to explore the televised images through my own vocabulary. To do so, computer screen shots were edited and reformatted then digitally printed on paper. The surface was painted and drawn upon, using traditional materials such as pastel, ink, charcoal and wax.

One could consider this layering as a means to create artistic "snapshots" of the phenomenon rather than being a literal depiction of the event. Working with traditional materials and digital techniques the images depict an engagement with the visual magnitude of rogue flames and the resulting raw energy of sublime swelling clouds. The Smouldering Boreal series not only renders our mind's susceptibility and compulsion to witness the results of the awesome natural phenomenon of a forest fire unleashed on a grand scale but helps to underscore the continuing vulnerability of the boreal forests under threat from human and climactic interventions.























