



West Coast Landscape

Gordon Smith



Photo: S. Massey

2011

City Centre Library, 10347 135 Street

Gordon Smith's painting may seem familiar. But look more closely. This monumental work does more than reproduce a scene from nature. "You use ...[the landscape] as a starting point," Smith says "and then the paint takes over." Here colour and brushwork are as important as the wintry scene we see. Smith plays the dark shapes of the forest against the snowy white ground and cold blue sky. The thin verticals and sweeping diagonals of the trees create subtle abstract patterns. Like the library itself, Smith's painting creates a mood of quiet introspection.

About the Artist

Gordon Smith, one of Canada's most esteemed and prolific painters of west coast landscapes, is also an accomplished printmaker who has worked in sculpture, photography, and mixed-media installation. His work is found in many public and private collections in Canada, the United States, and Britain. In addition to his acclaimed art career, Smith is a generous teacher and arts patron, and has received many honours and awards, including the Order of Canada, the Order of British Columbia, honorary doctorates, the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts, and the Audain Prize for Lifetime Achievement.