

Artist explores Vanishing Line



BY JOE BELANGER

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The *Vanishing Line* by Montreal artist Michael Smith is among the works included in a new exhibition at Michael Gibson Gallery until Nov. 23. (QMI Agency)

The work of Montreal-based artist Michael Smith is the focus of a new exhibition at a downtown London gallery.

The Vanishing Line, on at the Michael Gibson Gallery until Nov. 23, features landscape paintings.

"Michael Smith's paintings investigate the relationship between image and abstraction, as well as memory and performance," said Gibson in a press release.

"Smith believes that landscape painting is not a reflection of nature but rather a stage in which to enact the imagination. In this new suite of paintings, Smith's imaginative stage becomes an immersive experience of ancient forest floors, private watering holes and reflective light. Painted from a low perspective, we are invited to walk into each painting and are allowed to get lost inside the lush forest landscape that Smith has created."

Smith was born in Derby, England, and earned a bachelor of fine arts degree at Falmouth College of Art and completed a masters of fine art at Concordia University.

His paintings have been exhibited across Canada and internationally, including the Saidye Bronfman Centre in Montreal, the Appleton Museum in Ocala, Florida, Galerie Damasquine in Brussels and the Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts in Taiwan.

His work is in the permanent collections at The Musee d'art contemporain de Montreal, Musee des Beaux-Arts de Montreal, Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery, Beaverbrook Art Gallery and Rideau Hall.

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IF YOU GO

What: *The Vanishing Line*, a new exhibition of the work of Montreal artist Michael Smith.

Where: Michael Gibson Gallery, 157 Carling St.

When: Until Nov. 23, opening reception Saturday, 2-4 p.m.



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