

Artist Michael Smith's paintings are subject of book, exhibit

Exhibit of Smith's paintings now on display at the Beaverbrook gallery in Fredericton

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Artist Michael Smith is seen working in his studio. His works are the subject of a new book from Goose Lane Editions and an exhibit at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton. Photo by Paul Litherland/Submitted

Montreal-based artist Michael Smith, known for his large and colourful abstract paintings, is the subject of a new book from Goose Lane Editions and an exhibit of works at the Beaverbrook Gallery in Fredericton.

Goose Lane Editions says the book, *Michael Smith: Sea of Change*, is scheduled for release July 30. The 160-page book, with text in English and French, features a collection of Smith's paintings. It coincides with the exhibition of Smith's work at the Beaverbrook.

“Michael Smith's subjects are traditional and time-honoured, his approach to painting innovative and expansive. Smith's dialogue with process and materials, art history, and the present day situates him within the continuous history of a renewable art form. The perennial through-line is painting's ability to



illuminate, enlighten, and restore,” curator Nancy Tousley said in a news release.



Michael Smith's "Rogue", 2018, acrylic on canvas, 193 by 238.8 cm. SUBMITTED

The project is described as a major retrospective of Smith's paintings with 50 large-scale reproductions that draw on work as diverse as J.M.W. Turner's *The Fountain of Indolence*, George Chambers's depictions of 19th-century Arctic expeditions, and Jean Paul Riopelle's palette knife abstractions.

This retrospective publication also includes an essay on the artist's trajectory by Tousley, and an interview with the artist by curator John Leroux.

Smith's work may be found in numerous public collections, including those of le Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, le Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal, the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Rideau Hall, and la Citadelle de Québec.

The Michael Smith: Sea of Change exhibit will be at the Beaverbrook gallery until Oct. 27.



Michael Smith's 'Cradle of Words,' 2005, acrylic on canvas, 259 by 381 cm. PHOTO BY DANIEL ROUSSEL/
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Michael Smith's 'Light in Fathoms,' 2018 acrylic on canvas, 127 cm diameter. Courtesy of the artist and Michael Gibson. PHOTO BY JENNIE KRAEHLING/SUBMITTED