

INTERVIEW WITH ARTIST ANNE DEJONG

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF

"I am a Canadian landscape painter, living about 10 minutes north of the North Saskatchewan River, west of Edmonton. I have been painting since I was a teen. My grandfather encouraged me to start, so I bought my first set of oils when I was 14, and that is still my preferred medium today. I studied graphic design but I decided to get back into oil painting after my youngest started school. I work mainly with palette knives, creating textured paintings inspired by the Rocky Mountains and foothills of Alberta."

ART IS A MEANS TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. IT CAPTURES THE NATURAL BEAUTY AROUND US, AND I HOPE IT ENCOURAGES THE VIEWER TO APPRECIATE WHAT WE HAVE AND INSPIRES THEM TO DO WHAT THEY CAN TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.



Anne and her painting of the Nigel Pass area of the Cline Subwatershed

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE IN THE NORTH SASK RIVER WATERSHED AND WHY ?

"Close to home, the river valley trails are something I enjoy regularly - whether running, walking or picnicking - as I love to get out in nature and enjoy the peaceful sights and sounds along the river. When we venture further from home, our family trips usually involve camping in the foothills and mountains, either in the David Thompson area or in the National Parks. Hiking season is something I look forward to all winter, and I feel like it always ends too soon!"

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IS THERE AN AREA OF THE WATERSHED YOU ENJOY PAINTING MOST?

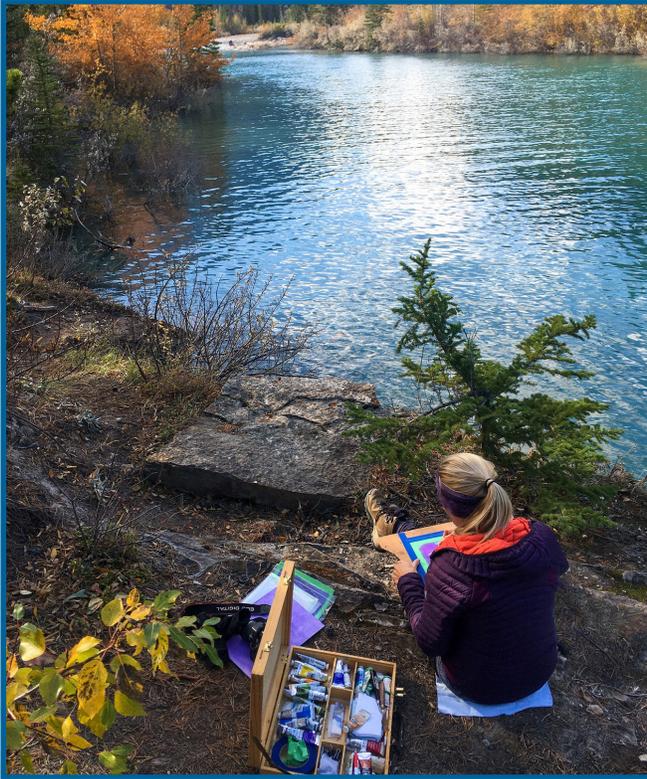
We hiked the Wilcox Pass Trail (above) as a family... There was inspiration at every bend in the trail, and I've painted several pieces from this location."



"My favourite paintings are usually tied to a memory. This Cline River painting is from a day of exploring the area, and is one of the few paintings completed on site (plein air)."



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WHAT IS THE INSPIRATION FOR YOUR PAINTINGS?

"My paintings are inspired by time spent in the mountains. I always come home from our camping and hiking trips full of inspiration and eager to capture my experiences on canvas. Having a personal connection to the landscape helps the paintings come together, so I try to get out into the natural world as often as I can to soak up the inspiration."

WHICH OF YOUR PAINTINGS IS YOUR FAVOURITE AND WHY?

"My favourites are paintings that capture the rivers and streams flowing through the mountains. There's just something about the tranquility of water below majestic mountain peaks."



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