

May 10, 2018

For Immediate Release:

ROSS PENHALL: *METEORA*

Opening reception: Thursday, May 24, 5 – 8 p.m.

Exhibition dates: May 24 – June 30, 2018



*Across Skaha November*, oil on canvas,  
23 x 36 inches.

Gallery Jones presents a solo exhibition of work by the Vancouver-based artist **Ross Penhall**, *Meteora*, from May 24 – June 30, 2018. Penhall's new large-scale oil paintings display the incredible height and depth of the mountainous West Coast landscape, while each tidied tree, cloud and mountain—marking the artist's distinct style—signals the human desire to connect with the vast wilderness.

In Ancient Greek philosophy, Aristotle used the phrase *ta meteora* to describe the totality of phenomena which takes place in the sky, including those celestial and spiritual things beyond the grasp of humans' cognitive capacities. Many of Penhall's paintings in *Meteora* reveal a sense of the power of the natural elements, drawing attention to the tangible turbulence of our coastal weather. The expansive, moody skies of Penhall's new works invite us to consider the sublime and transcendent aspects of nature.

Penhall's use of light and shadow guide the eye through each scene, conveying a feeling of temperature as if one is standing on the edge of the landscape. Philosopher Elisabeth Grosz writes that landscape art has the potential to make visible "that which sensation senses of the invisible". \* Penhall's paintings have a way of invoking the memory of those invisible stimuli, whether it is cold, warmth, wind, or fresh air. They manage to capture a piece of the untamable and ever-changing environment that imbues (or permeates) our coast.

Also included in the exhibition is a new print work called *Fluid Dynamics / Silt Sidewalk Suspension*, created in collaboration with the Vancouver printmaking company New Leaf Editions. It presents two photographed patterns side by side, drawing an interesting connection between human footprints in silt and handwritten mathematical formulas describing the relationship of fluids to solids.

\*Elisabeth Grosz, *Sensation, the Earth, a People, Art* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), 73.