

Gregg Laananen

Gregg Laananen begins his paintings nearly exclusively outdoors, breathing life and color into the Pacific Northwest landscape with his visceral interpretations of mountain ranges, forests, and coasts. His surroundings and their emotional effect on him determine his approach, which can be described as neo-expressionist.

Laananen engages with textural qualities of paint using rich, gestural brushstrokes on wood to describe scenes of nature. According to the artist, “My attempts in painting are to reproduce what is felt rather than seen.” Laananen exposes the beauty found in contrast and movement and he will sometimes leave exposed areas of the wood surface, an effect that gives his paintings a raw intensity.

Inspired by Northern European Expressionist groups such as the German *Die Brücke* (“The Bridge”), as well as the Canadian Group of Seven, Laananen incorporates the essence of these pioneering modernist groups in his energetic oils to his advantage. Gregg Laananen graduated from University of Washington in 2003. He has exhibited his work regionally, including shows in Seattle, Deming, and Edison.