

Artist Statement 2011

My paintings are about place and my relationship to it. Specific landscapes speak to me year after year without exhausting what they have to say. I have been painting in and around Port Maitland and Beaver River in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, since 1984. I'm drawn to locations that give me a 180 degree view of the world and where, in the company of birds and other wildlife, I can become one with what I see in the moment. All of my watercolor landscapes and many of my oils are painted en plein air.

Short Beach is a solitary rock beach on the southwestern edge of Nova Scotia. The huge scale of its boulders suggest great forces at work. The beach is a complex puzzle of warm and cool rocks, an area of black rock that looks like flows of molten lava, and thin sheets of vertically stacked rock piled in step-like formations. All are a continual challenge to paint. So too are its sea grasses, scummy pools, and the ocean itself as it recedes, advances, and reflects an ever-changing sky.

Margo Tassi
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