

Ilana Manolson

Artist Statement

I am a painter, printmaker, and naturalist weaving together environmental systems of earth, water, and life. I move between the edge of representation and abstraction, capturing the essence of landscape in a mark. The paintings refer to both the seen and imagined; swaths of pure fluid color appear wave-like, close up, and then fall into perspective at a distance. I paint and edit simultaneously. This process mirrors the natural world. Just as rivers flow into lakes and fires ravage forests, my work operates in both the additive and subtractive. I stack layers of paint and scrape into pools of color. In doing so, I document the growth and loss within a landscape.

My practice is oriented to place and responsive to my environment. Growing up in the glacial mountains of Quebec I was intimate with the lakes, stones, and rivers. The boundaries blurred between human and nature; I knew every rock by name. Every painting is a story formed by a compilation of miles walked through the past and into the present. My paintings encompass something developing and something dying. This narrative is constant in nature and in my work. When I paint, I squint my eyes, looking for the minute that stands in for the monumental.