

# STEPAC hosts Artist Mark Milroy

## An artist comes home with Landscapes Lost and Found

With a successful career in New York City, artist Mark Milroy returns to St. Thomas to showcase the art from this journey.

After stab at traditional subjects at UWO, and art school in Chicago ("Chicago toughened me up," he says), Mark set out for New York City. After only a few odd jobs, Mark earned a living from making art ever since. It is a singular achieve-

ment, in any field. "I know that if I had a full-time job, and a Plan B, I may not have stuck to Plan A. But now... the highs are a little higher, the lows not as low," muses Mark.

"New York is such a tough town. Everything is amplified. I makes you work that much harder," But it was worth it. "The beauty of New York is that an artist truly can exist, and you need that to be able to produce." And an artist must produce. "You must be able to see your visions all the

way through, unobstructed. I've been very lucky."

The centrepiece of the show is 'Landscapes Lost and Found', a collection of 70 individual 12" by 12" pieces mounted together. Mark began painting local landscapes early in his ca-

reer, but in New York, shifted to cityscapes. "I've always painted what was around me," explains Mark. But after five years, and an artistic crisis, Market returned to landscapes, in Long Island, upstate New York, the

**"...Painting the landscape I remember best..."**

*Painter Mark Milroy*

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Atlantic oceanside, and the Gatineau Hills of Quebec All 70 pieces in the work were painted outdoors, on-site, usually in one sitting. "Together, they document my journey, taking me all the way back here, to St. Thomas.

Other works in the show as clearly from Elgin, showing tobacco kilns or familiar lake

views. Some are painted from sketches or photos, some from memory. Here Mark is "painting the landscape that I remember best," saying that many of the paintings are "very specific to my feelings about Elgin County."

The Mark Milroy show runs until October 30. As always, admission is free.



Tobacco House #2, Oil on Canvas, 24" x 30", 2009, by Mark Milroy.

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