

Janet Stanley
Artist's Statement for Women Painting Canada™

The idea of a group of women painters united by the intention to provide a distinctly female way of understanding Canada and what it is to be Canadian appeals to me on many levels. Conscious of the challenges that faced women painters in the past, I like the notion of forging supportive painting relationships that are inclusive, nurturing and expansive. It also feels very "Canadian" to me, as much of my experience of Canada has been in small cohesive communities.

My first plein aire painting experience was in the Yukon - an awesome if daunting experience that had a profound affect on me. Since then I've enjoyed painting in a diverse range of places repeatedly drawn to the wealth of rock and water to explore notions of home, family, abundance, loss, separation, fertility, memory and hope. It's the mix of conflicting notions that I am intrigued by and how they coexist in any given moment. A complex experience, just like being Canadian!