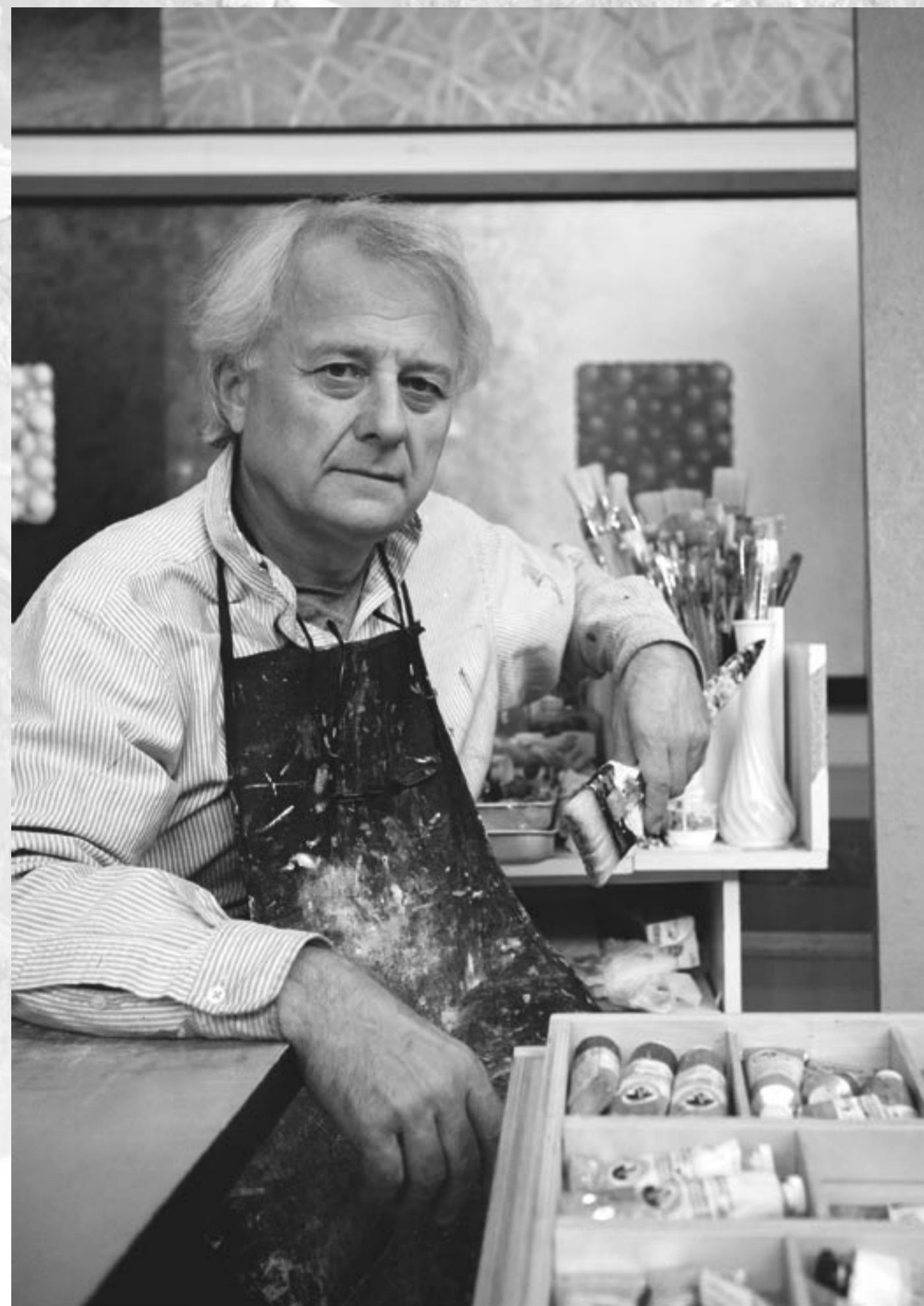


# Leszek (Les) Wyczolkowski

(b. 1950)

Graphic artist, painter



POLISH SPIRIT



*My art is the balance of two worlds. The initial world is one of intellect, geometry and order bound by strong craftsmanship. The other world is soft, organic, sensitive and instinctive. These two worlds combined are the foundation of my art.*

Leszek Wyczolkowski

Leszek Wyczolkowski was born into a family of artists in Poland. His great granduncle was Leon Wyczolkowski (1852-1936), a celebrated painter and graphic artist of the fin de siècle, most notably associated with the artistic movement known as Young Poland. Leszek Wyczolkowski received his first art training at an early age from his father, and initiated his formal education at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, studying in the years 1975-77. After immigrating to Canada in 1978, he completed his studies at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto, graduating with honours in 1982.

"Wyczolkowski is not easy to classify or label as his art stands apart from contemporary schools and movements. If classification is required, his art may be considered as belonging to a school of contemporary neosymbolism or neogeometry -- if such schools exist in the postmodern melting pot. Leszek Wyczolkowski has carved his unique niche in contemporary Canadian art, because his art, so diverse both in substance and in form, mirrors the vital problem of humanity and nature in an inseparable way. Within the confines of these poetic forms of various provenance and symbolic meanings, the force of life and growth pulses with an indomitable strength." (*Art Exhibit Review, Leszek Wyczolkowski: Beyond symbolism*, Calgary 2001)

Canada's diverse landscape has proven influential in Wyczolkowski's art. His appreciation of the minimalist prairies and the pristine beauty of the Canadian Rockies came via numerous art-related transcontinental driving excursions. In 2005 and 2007, he arranged self-directed residencies at The Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta, to submerge himself in nature and create new bodies of work in the medium of painting and the time-honoured technique of etching on zinc and copper plates.

Wyczolkowski has traveled throughout Asia and Europe, and has exhibited in over one hundred and fifty one-man and group shows. His works are shown in museums, corporate, public and private collections in Austria, Belgium, Brazil, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Poland, Russia, Sweden and the United States. In Canada, they are a part of the permanent collections of public galleries from coast to coast.



Photos from top left clockwise:

• Leszek Wyczolkowski – artist's portrait • L. Wyczolkowski – Destination • L. Wyczolkowski – Journey • L. Wyczolkowski – Tradition

All photos – Lynn Wyczolkowski