

# David Kelavey is a local artist with a global vision

The Lakeshore Association of Artists spring exhibition to benefit Nova West Island will be held this weekend in Baie-D'Urfé.

CAROLYN BOLL, SPECIAL TO MONTREAL GAZETTE Updated: April 24, 2019



"My ultimate aim is to change the way people walk around and see the world," David Kelavey said of his artwork. *DAVID KELAVEY*

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From high on a mountaintop in the Adirondacks, to a red light in the suburbs, West Island artist David Kelavey pauses and takes a moment to consider the world around him. It is this moment of reflection that is the source of inspiration for many of his paintings.

"Just to see the way the light bounces off cars at a red light, the way they create this little enclave of light," said Kelavey.

Whether it is highlighting the motion of a moving river, or the brilliance of a row of trees in Pointe-Claire Village, Kelavey's use of light invites the viewer to also pause and reflect. "I want people to look at what they are potentially missing. My ultimate aim is to change the way people walk around and see the world," he said.

An avid hiker, many of his nature paintings are of the Adirondacks, and his love of the "well-trodden trails, the culture and the stories" of the region give added interest to his mountain landscapes.

Equally fascinated by the city, Kelavey finds inspiration in the luminosity and energy of the urban landscape. Born in the United Kingdom, and after working and travelling in France, Germany, Australia and Indonesia, he moved to Montreal for a job that was to take him back to the UK after 18 months. He laughs, "That was 22 years ago."

He is passionate about Montreal. "It didn't take me very long to fall in love with the place. I was stunned." His paintings of iconic Montreal streets like Peel, Stanley and Crescent, convey, through his bold interplay between light and shadow, a vibrant city that the viewer can connect with immediately.

Kelavey calls himself an Impressionist. When the viewer sees his work from afar they perceive it to be almost photographic. As they get nearer they begin to see only the strokes and gestural quality that are the foundation of his work. Kelavey likes that he and the viewer co-create the work. "There is a happy synergy," he said.

He once lived in Ste-Anne de Bellevue. It was there that he reconnected with an early love of painting, and after a period downtown, he returned to the West Island, where he is now an active member of the local art community.

Represented by [Viva Vida Art Gallery](#), Kelavey's works are popular with visitors to the dynamic Pointe-Claire Village gallery. Among his works there, is another series inspired by local scenes of interest to the artist. "The village has a very distinctive character — narrow streets, leaning telephone poles and mixed-use buildings." He captures a luminous view of the streetscape of Bord du Lac at twilight, or the arrival of spring reflected in the melting snow on a side street.

Seeking to "keep reaching for the horizon" in his artwork, Kelavey reveals our world to us — from the call of the wilderness, to the nearness of home.

Join Kelavey and other members of the [Lakeshore Association of Artists](#) for their spring exhibition to benefit NOVA West Island at Fritz Farm, 20477 Lakeshore Rd., Baie-D'Urfé. The vernissage is Friday from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The show continues Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.