

Carol Kapuscinsky

Foreword Shades of Yellow

It is fitting that Carol Kapuscinsky is presenting us with a body of works entitled, *Shades of Yellow*. I cannot imagine a more suitable colour for Carol considering the words that best describe her personality would undoubtedly include bright, sunny, cheery and warm. All words embodied by yellow. Yet, the significances of this pigment are far more reaching in her life. Having spent her early childhood in Peru and then most of her developing years in Winnipeg, yellow has played a pivotal role in her life. Whether it was the majesty of the sunflower or the dominance of a prairie field, the presence of this colour was a constant force in her life.

Further of course, as a painter, colour is crucial to Carol's work. It is through her honed observational skills, her wealth of experience and her spiritual relationship with the land, that she is able to offer such beautiful and emotionally powerful paintings. Within these skills, her ability to see and create compelling and living colours is critical. Carol's process begins with first-hand experience of the landscape and documenting it. Then she labours over a composition for each canvas. But it is the next steps, those that include the layering of paint and the creating of rich, deep tones that mark the magic and singularity of Carol's paintings. Beginning almost in abstraction, Carol lays forms of colours, one upon another, until the details emerge.

In *Shades of Yellow*, the focus then becomes the unavoidable yellow, which may depict a canola field, or a patch of flowers or may simply be how the light turns the scene golden. It is in this final reduction, the one that draws attention to this simple, primary colour, that these paintings do what all Carol's paintings do: they come to life. And, in their quiet strength, they make us feel as though we too are there. We can feel the breeze, hear the birds, smell the earth. It allows us to find our own spiritual connection with the world Carol offers us. Each viewer's reaction will be different and dependent on individual experiences and vision, but each will be moulded in part by the thoughtful compositions, the masterful use of light and the incomparable richness of this vibrant, versatile hue.

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