



EXHIBITING ARTIST

37907 Second Avenue, Squamish, BC
<https://squamishlibrary.ca/foyer-gallery/>



March 17th – May 12th

Opening Reception

Monday,

March 24th, 2 – 3pm

refreshments ~ treats ~ live demo
All Welcome!

CHRIS O. BENNETT

Sea to Sky Mountains

oil paintings



For viewing, visit the FOYER Gallery during regular hours. For purchases, please speak to the library staff.

CHRIS O. BENNETT, *Sea to Sky Mountains*, oil paintings

Artist Bio

Mountains and painting have always been my passion since my early school days in the Lake District in the UK amongst the Lakeland mountains. It was here I discovered John Ruskin's work and the Arts and Crafts movement which grew out of a reaction to the mechanised Industrial Revolution. Ruskin championed the idea of 'truth to nature' and encouraged painters to observe the natural world closely.

I completed an art foundation course at Manchester University before studying to become a Professional Architect. I am fortunate to be able to visualise in three-dimensional form. The relationship between form and space is dynamic, as the form can define and shape the space, while space can influence and alter the form. Painting mountains reflect this for me. Throughout my career sketching and painting were my joy and relaxation.



We retired to Squamish in 2016 where I continue to paint in oils and watercolours from my home studio and strive to capture my experiences from hiking in this awesome inspiring natural landscape. I use Winsor & Newton oil paint because it creates depth through different layers of pigment applied over time. This gives oil paintings a sense of dimension that's virtually impossible to achieve otherwise as you can move the paint to suit your desired effect without it drying too fast.

Please email artbyCOB@gmail.com for more info or to visit my art studio in Squamish, BC. Follow me on Instagram [@artbycob](https://www.instagram.com/artbycob). And cobart.ca

Q&A with CHRIS O. BENNETT

Q: What is most important to you in your art?

A: To try to show viewers the experience that I have while hiking in the high mountains and reaching those special places we all yearn for.

Q: What does your work aim to say? Does your work comment on current social or political issues?

A: My paintings are snap shot in time and therefore captures that moment that may or may not change in time. They are a reflection of the times we live in and also the good and bad that we are doing to our environment. It is up to us to see if our mountains remain the same in years to come.

Q: What kind of artist do you consider yourself? Why?

A: I am a contemporary landscape artist using oil and watercolour paints. I paint to capture that special light and atmosphere you get while walking in the high mountains where we find the quiet solitude and in nature that surrounds us. It is this special atmosphere I try to capture in my paintings. I try to put the viewer in my paintings standing next to me to experience the tranquility and enlightenment of the moment.

Q: How did you learn about the methods you use to make your work?

A: *Apart from school and University it has been self taught. Practice and experiment are the guide lines to success and learning from other inspirational artists.*

Q: Who are your biggest influences?

A: *Daniel Izzard (West Vancouver) for his inspiring use of paint and brush strokes and use of colour. Toni Onley (Vancouver) for the way he used watercolours to show how to best use colour and washes to give maximum atmosphere of vast spaces, and aerial perspective by using subtle colours. Charlie Easton (Vancouver) has shown me by persevering with art you can achieve some great paintings and by his continued journey in using light and shade to enhance the viewer's attention to his subjects. This is to name but a few local artists. Art History is a fascinating subject that can help us understand what all artist are striving for. To Improve!*

For more information: <https://cobart.ca/>, Instagram @artbycob, artbycob@gmail.com



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