

IAN THOMAS

Artist Statement

Ian Thomas has a long history as both teacher and artist. His art education began in England and continued at the University of British Columbia, where he received an MA in Art Education and an assistant professor position in the Faculty of Education.

From 1976 and 1991, he taught in the Visual Arts Department at Camosun College.

In his earlier work, Thomas attempted to convey — using objects, environments, installations, photographs, images and words — his personal history in memories lost and regained. Eventually painting and drawing became his chosen medium, while the work continued to be concerned with the frailty and violence of the human condition.

Over the last decade a new concern with 'landscape' became paramount as Ian documented what he saw at home and in his travels to other countries. The paintings became increasingly concerned with the human presence in the landscape, as evidenced by objects, buildings and finally human figures themselves.

While some of his new work reflects a continuing sense of loss and nostalgia, there is also elation and renewal of hope. The latter is embedded in the paint surface itself that glows with colour and sureness of brushwork.