

Llewellyn Petley-Jones and Matt Petley-Jones: Alberta – Then and Now

PETLEY-JONES GALLERY, VANCOUVER BC – Mar 7-28, 2009 *Alberta – Then and Now* features paintings depicting Albertan scenes from the 1930s to 2008. The majority of works are by Llewellyn Petley-Jones and demonstrate a breathtaking mastery of watercolour. The fluidity and ease of his brushwork express his enviable talent in simple paintings described as "skilfully creating an airy atmosphere that can almost fill our lungs".

Llewellyn Petley-Jones (1908-1986) first became known for his portraits, oils and watercolours of the Edmonton and West Coast area in the early 1930s. With dynamic loose sketches punctuated by form and colour, he conjured up a wealth of pictures of the remote prairies and early urban development. During his long career, his work was shown by the Royal Academy London, Royal Society of British Artists, Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts, Paris and the National Gallery of Canada, among other prestigious institutions. In 1927 he became a member of the Edmonton Art Club, and in 1931 was one of the original members of the Alberta Society of Artists.

More recent paintings by his nephew Matthew Petley-Jones, who established Vancouver's Petley-Jones Gallery in 1986, have an energetic style that straddles the line between representation and abstraction with thick applications of paint. The prairie as subject matter unites their work and provides a frame of reference for the exhibit. *Mia Johnson*



Llewellyn Petley-Jones, *A New House* (c. 1930), watercolour on paper [Petley-Jones Gallery, Vancouver BC, Mar 7-28]