

Karen Jones  
Artist Statement

## UNNATURAL ENVIRONMENTS

My *Unnatural Environments* series began as a digital deconstruction of nighttime urban images, which led to a more in-depth examination of large residential structures. The work is inspired by my fascination with the rapid and persistent development projects in Victoria and Metro Vancouver.

The early works in the series are six small paintings on paper, each titled *Night + Time (I-VI)*. These pieces are generated from others' images taken at night and posted to social media. As a way to depersonalize and to abstract the original images I reduced their resolution through digital manipulation, leaving each image obscured but retaining the original colours.

After the *Night + Time* paintings, I further altered the images to more dynamic compositions and colour palettes, in a small square format on paper. Each titled *Structus (I-IX)*, the colour transitions are more abrupt and the compositions are more representative of architecture.

The most recent paintings in this series are developed from my library of images captured while walking through Victoria. I redraw the buildings, retaining notable architectural features or segments that I find interesting. I paint flat surfaces using a dynamic colour palette, either on paper or wood panel. Abstracting the structures and using solid colours highlight the forms that may not otherwise be noticed or visible.

In addition to photographing the buildings, I research the architectural and development companies' promotional material to gain insight into how they want the public to view their project. This information informs the development of each painting. Furthermore, I title each work with a direct quote from their promotional statements.

Colour composition is paramount to the works in this series; each painting is a theoretical and experiential endeavor.