

MJ EDWARDS



Fire in the City

In the winter of 2020 Australia was experiencing extreme wildfires that seemed likely to consume much of the continent. The news coming out of Australia was depressing, with daily updates on rare and unique species spiraling toward extinction with the stresses of habitat destruction being further exacerbated by the extreme heat and drought-induced wildfires.



Australia Burning

In my studio, the abstract landscape paintings that emerged that winter dealt with my preoccupation with the fires as well as with the coastal winter storms I was experiencing firsthand. The small island in the Bay of Fundy where I live often experiences extremes of weather, especially high winds and seas. In recent decades these have become more destructive due to rising sea levels and an increase in extreme weather occurrences, many of which impact our small island as they travel up the eastern seaboard.

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Winter Storm Beach

Coastal erosion is eating away our eastern shore where the majority of our community is settled; we may soon be forced to move sections of highway for the second time in a century. Beaches as I knew them as a child are drastically altered, with much of the dune grasses washed away or buried by shifting sands. Some have eroded so much that petrified forests are being uncovered for the first time since they were buried four thousand years ago.

*Land of Smoke and Fire
Australia Raging*



**SOME DAYS I THINK WE ARE FINALLY ON THE PATH TO CHANGE,
BUT I'M NOT OVERLY HOPEFUL THAT IT IS SOON ENOUGH.**