



Information about the artist and the artwork:

**Jean Hay, Snow Flows #7, 1996;
Encaustic on canvas backed with Masonite.
From the collection of the Thames Art Gallery.**



Born in Renfrew, Jean Hay (1919–2012) trained as a nurse in Toronto and spent the majority of her adult life in London. Her artistic career gathered steam in middle age after studying studio arts at Western University.

The Arctic captured the attention of Jean Hay in her teenage years, and in 1986, at the age of 67, she would finally make her first trip.

She travelled north to follow her interests in landscape, migration, archeology, and the Viking findings on Ellesmere Island (*Umingmak Nuna*). The incredible vibrancy of the Arctic stimulated her creative spirit and inspired several return visits, twice through the Arctic Awareness Program with the Polar Continental Shelf Project (no longer in existence today). Hay undertook her last trip to the Arctic in 1995 when she was 75 years old. She would continue to paint into her late 80s.

Take a closer look...

- What words would you use to describe this artwork
- How do you think this artwork was made?
- What would it feel like to be in this artwork?

Encaustic: a method of painting that uses molten beeswax mixed with pigment instead of paint. This type of painting takes a fair amount of skill: the surface must remain relatively even and the beeswax must stay warm enough for the artist to be able to manipulate it. This “hot wax painting” technique is very old, dating back to the time of the Ancient Egyptians

Eye Movement

Movement in artistic compositions may refer to something called "eye movement". Eye movement is the way a viewer's eye moves through a work of art.

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