

## Artist Statement – LAURA PETURSON

**“Edge of the Woods”/ “Remnants of Play”** is a body of work comprised of prints created using woodcut, linocut, and papercut processes. The images present a nostalgic vision of childhood described through invented narratives, a flat illustrative form sense, and a subdued colour palette.

I live in a semi-rural area, near North Bay, Ontario. While walking the trails through the woods behind my house, I often come across remnants of play left behind by the children in the area. While some of the prints take this debris as a point of inspiration, others are based on observations made during a summer spent in Newfoundland. Tiny remote villages inhabited by women and children (the men are working in Alberta) reminded me of towns near my home where the sole industry (such as paper, or mining) has collapsed. The tendency to romanticize a childhood in such a place, while recognizing the reality of growing up there, struck me as poignant. It is my hope that the prints convey a series of quiet narratives that are outside of time, yet strongly connected to place.

When designing a print, composition is of primary importance to me. I aim to create a sense of timing in the work that unfolds as a series of moments within an open-ended story. I make drawings from life and mine my sketchbooks for the necessary components once an idea has been formed. I tend to work small in order to maintain a sense of delicacy and quietness. A hand-made aesthetic is important to me, and I try to privilege hand-printing techniques over press printing.