

# Stephen Hutchings *Tree Paintings*



In these paintings, the compositions are derived mainly from sketching trips over the years. Hutchings views the paintings equating to the nature of human perception with the behaviour of light from the sun. While the sun illuminates from one source only, creating darkness or shadow where it does not shine, he sees our eyes, as extensions of our brain, perceiving not just according to the laws of optics, but also involving our minds, our emotions and our memories. This makes the idea of an "Illuminated World," when we understand it in human terms, and not just as something that comes from a source of light, more thoughtful and inclusive. Hutchings presents an illumination that suggests an awareness that runs deeper than simple visual identification. In these paintings, the illuminated world is a blend of the objective world of forms together with the rich, subjective world of human understanding.

The quest for understanding has been represented in many cultures by the Tree of Knowledge, symbolic of granting insights into the secrets of life. Another interpretation of the tree is the hidden truth encased within a hard outer casing. Over the last 9 years, the image of the tree and/or bush has been the predominant choice by Stephen Hutchings. Although the viewer may interpret Hutchings' imagery with many cultural or personal associations, the artist consistently uses the solitary figure of the tree to symbolize two main themes in his work: the mythical connotations of the individual associated with heroic qualities, conveyed in portrait style compositions often charged with energy and mystery, or in a grouping of several tree images with the intention to present the relationship the individual has with his/her community.

**BIOGRAPHY** Stephen Hutchings, born in Halifax in 1948, received a B.A. in Art History from the University of Toronto and attended the Ontario College of Art in the early 1970's. His work can be found in numerous museum, corporate and public collections including the Beaver Brook Art Gallery, New Brunswick, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Museum London, Tom Thompson Memorial Art Gallery, Glenbow Museum, Department of Foreign Affairs, Scotiabank, Air Canada, Bank of Montreal and the Royal Bank of Canada. He currently resides in New Brunswick, Canada.

All images, dimensions and values for the artist are listed under **Stephen Hutchings** at:  
[www.kostuikgallery.com](http://www.kostuikgallery.com)

**Tuesday to Friday 10am - 6pm, Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday 12pm - 4pm. Private Appointments are always welcome.**

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