

THE FRONT

TRACE YEOMANS

Empty Nest, 2022, serigraph print on heavy stock rag paper,
30 x 22.5 in. (76.2 x 57.1 cm), edition of 25.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I STARTED PAINTING this piece a few years ago. The idea came to me while I was sitting and thinking about how quiet it was the day after my youngest child left home. I felt a bit lost. It was the first of many paintings I did that year. There are many hours of intricate twig detail, but at the time, I was relieved to focus my attention on painting rather than being sad and missing my kids. This was one of the most time-consuming oil paintings I have ever attempted and took the longest to complete. I picked it up again this year and continued many more hours on the detail of twigs. It finally felt done. Through it, I felt I regained my freedom to be creative and found myself in my art again. The nest sits empty, with complex twigs intertwining with each other. They represent all that I am as a mother intertwined with hope, worry, pride, sadness, and happiness for my kids. I've added a ghostly white Haida Raven overlooking the empty nest to represent myself.

ARTIST BIO

Trace Yeomans was born on Haida Gwaii to a Haida mother and a Ukrainian father. As a multidisciplinary artist working in a variety of media, her passion for art-making is fostered by beautiful dance regalia with appliquéd Haida designs and fabric art techniques. Her Haida style appliqué techniques point to her inspiration in designing pieces that are culturally significant to her combined dual heritage. Several of her works are displayed in museums around the world. Trace frequently works with her partner, Don Yeomans, combining their respective skills to create unique and critically acclaimed artworks. For example, working on carving several totem pole commissions, including the monumental poles and oil paintings in the rotunda of the Vancouver International Airport.