



ABOVE
Andy Devine
Corvus V
2010
acrylic on plywood
1355mm x 1155mm
Newcastle Region Art Gallery collection

ABOVE LEFT
Andy Devine installing *Sense of Embrace*,
Sense of Place in the University Gallery

Conversation in Landscape continues until 2 July

THE UNIVERSITY
GALLERY

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE CALLAGHAN 2308

E gallery@newcastle.edu.au

W www.newcastle.edu.au/universitygallery

T + 61 02 4921 5255

OPEN Wednesday – Saturday 12 noon – 6pm or by appointment



Postgraduate Exhibition
Exhibition Dates **15 JUNE - 2 JULY** 2011



Andy Devine

CONVERSATION IN LANDSCAPE



THE UNIVERSITY
GALLERY



ABOVE
Andy Devine
Sense of Embrace, Sense of Place
 (installation) 2011
 Mild steel, acrylic alloy, gesso, coal,
 water and air
 courtesy of the artist

RIGHT
Andy Devine
Cargo Fleet Study #1
 2010
 acrylic on custom board
 250mm x 205mm
 courtesy of Paul Munro



The *Conversation in Landscape* exhibition has been the culmination of research which involved considerable self-reflection and artistic experimentation. Conversations are at the heart of the work, particularly a revelatory one with my estranged father. However, other conversations with family, artistic peers, mentors, viewers of my artwork and finally, myself, have provided useful psychological insights. The installation of work in the exhibition should primarily be seen as a discourse providing the mechanism for a cathartic 'embrace', a physical expression of a personal journey through a post-industrial landscape.

There is more to the exhibition than the immediate visual experience of the artwork. There is the capability to facilitate the meaning of the post-industrial landscape as a signifier of healing, a statement better portrayed in a visual format than in words. The representation of work should be seen as a meaning that may be determined by position, circumstance, or connotation.

The *Corvus* paintings are allegorical representations of a personal narrative. The *Corvus* steelworks provided a strong visual stimulus and a foundation for my memories of industrial landscapes. Although I was aware of the industrial area at Redcar, Teesside, UK, I had never visited it and during my trip home in 2009 it gave me solace and comfort to view it at close range. The South Gare surrounds allowed for a more intimate feel to the imposing industry with a golf course, beachside setting and fishermen's huts. The latter were strikingly anomalous and presented an opportunity to represent symbolic containers of personal memories in the landscape paintings.

The *Sense of Embrace, Sense of Place* installation is the embodiment of all the conversations that were had during production of the *Corvus* paintings, expressed in text and imagery. The cross of the *Angel* gives a sense of renewal where there is a new beginning without the familial baggage including abandonment, dysfunctional support and lost opportunities. A psychological burden has been lifted allowing a freeing of the mind and spirit. The installation had to encompass the North-East England region, my cultural identity, my family experience and how I reconciled these factors to reach an understanding of what is important to me.

The industrial landscape is the milieu in which I feel comfortable and what I perceive as 'natural'. I will continue to refer to this landscape in my art practice particularly examining my cultural identity and its impact on my current circumstances.

- *Andy Devine, 2011*



ABOVE
Andy Devine
South Gare Study #3
 2010
 acrylic on plywood
 295mm x 295mm
 courtesy of Jon and Jac Berry

COVER IMAGE
Andy Devine
South Gare Study #4
 2010
 acrylic on custom board
 295mm x 295mm
 courtesy of the artist

Andy Devine

CONVERSATION IN LANDSCAPE