

WHITE

Euan Macleod

Neil Frazer

Tim Cheung

THE UNIVERSITY
GALLERY

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE CALLAGHAN 2308

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

Neil Frazer is represented by Martin Browne Fine Art www.martinbrownefineart.com

Euan Macleod is represented by Watters Gallery www.wattersgallery.com



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This exhibition is the result of a journey to the Antarctic in February 2009 aboard the MV Professor Multanovskiy, a former research vessel built in Finland. Three artists joined the ship where the Andes meet the sea in Ushuaia, a place sometimes referred to as the 'end of the world'. They set sail through the Drake Passage off notorious Cape Horn which is known for huge and unrelenting seas. Euan Macleod, Tim Cheung and Neil Frazer battled their way onward to Antarctica, following the trail of previous adventurers, complete with a sense of camaraderie and things unknown and unfamiliar.

The ten day journey to this hostile and extraordinary environment (it is the coldest and windiest continent), is documented in WHITE. Antarctica as a reserve for research seems the perfect destination for these artists for whom the empirical capture of the landscape is at the core of their work. The photographs, paintings and works on paper illustrate for us this unique environment as well as the commitment of these artists to seek challenging new studies of natural landscapes.

In work such as Macleod's *Figure and Tall Iceberg*, the human image has a distinct presence and scale, as it is revealed contained and confined by a frame of ice. Here the figure is established as part of the landscape and it is from this view that Macleod describes the enormity and complexity of the environment.

While Macleod's images focus on specific sites, Cheung's photographs depict the expanse of the continent. The images become almost abstract in composition, as horizon lines and rock formations etch the near monochrome environment. Some of its more appealing inhabitants become portraits such as the Skua series and the penguin in *Contemplation*, reminding us of the beauty and rarity of Antarctic wildlife.

Frazer's works reveal the inherent drama of the landscape. The masculine, sculptural forms in his painting evoke the shifting of the ice shelves and the extremity of the location. The sky acts as catalyst for the viewer, emerging from the immutability of the texture and the plasticity of paint which physically make the environment of the picture plane. The adoption of pure white as a field for the Antarctic sky extends the eye – and the imagination – beyond.

As a landscape the Antarctic represents an image which is comprised of few elements. It is perhaps this open expanse, in addition to the romantic notions of the location as both unexplored and extreme, which has enabled these three different responses. Each artist has seemingly emphasised a particular element of the landscape through the adaptation of their own particular style and medium. Cheung illustrates the purity of the location through the pristine photographic surfaces which emanate cool and horizons that almost locate the very point of the South Pole. Frazer's bold, dynamic painting style embodies the physicality of the journey and evokes the sense of an epic adventure while Macleod's palette reveals tones that illustrate the mystery and danger of this shifting arid landscape, reminding us of the encroachment of humanity onto this pristine, last white wilderness.

Gillean Shaw

Art Curator



ABOVE
Neil Frazer, Tim Cheung and Euan Macleod
in Antarctica

14 APRIL – 22 MAY 2010

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COVER IMAGE

Figure and Tall Iceberg 2010
oil on canvas 139.5 x 90cm

ABOVE

Figure and Penguins 2010
oil on polyester 84 x 120 cm

Euan Macleod

Born in Christchurch NZ, Macleod completed his education in Fine Arts at Canterbury University and moved to Australia in 1981. He won the Archibald Prize in 1999, the Sir John Sulman Prize in 1991 and the Gallipoli Prize in 2009.

He is widely represented in public collections such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Gallery of Australia.

Euan Macleod is represented by Watters Gallery
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Euan Macleod



ABOVE
Large Iceberg 2010
oil on polyester 120 x 84cm

LEFT
Approaching Icebergs in Boat 2010
oil on polyester 120 x 84cm

RIGHT
Sitting with Penguins 2010
oil on polyester 120 x 84cm





COVER IMAGE
Cool Side 2009
acrylic on canvas 137 x 137 cm

ABOVE
Entrance 2009
acrylic on canvas 126 x 126 cm

Neil Frazer

Neil Frazer was born in Canberra and graduated from the the School of Fine Arts at Canterbury University NZ in 1985. The recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship, he studied in New York before moving to Australia in 1999. He completed postgraduate study at the College of Fine Art at the UNSW.

The works from his WHITE series will be shown at Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane from 29 June - 24 July.

Neil Frazer is represented by Martin Browne Fine Art
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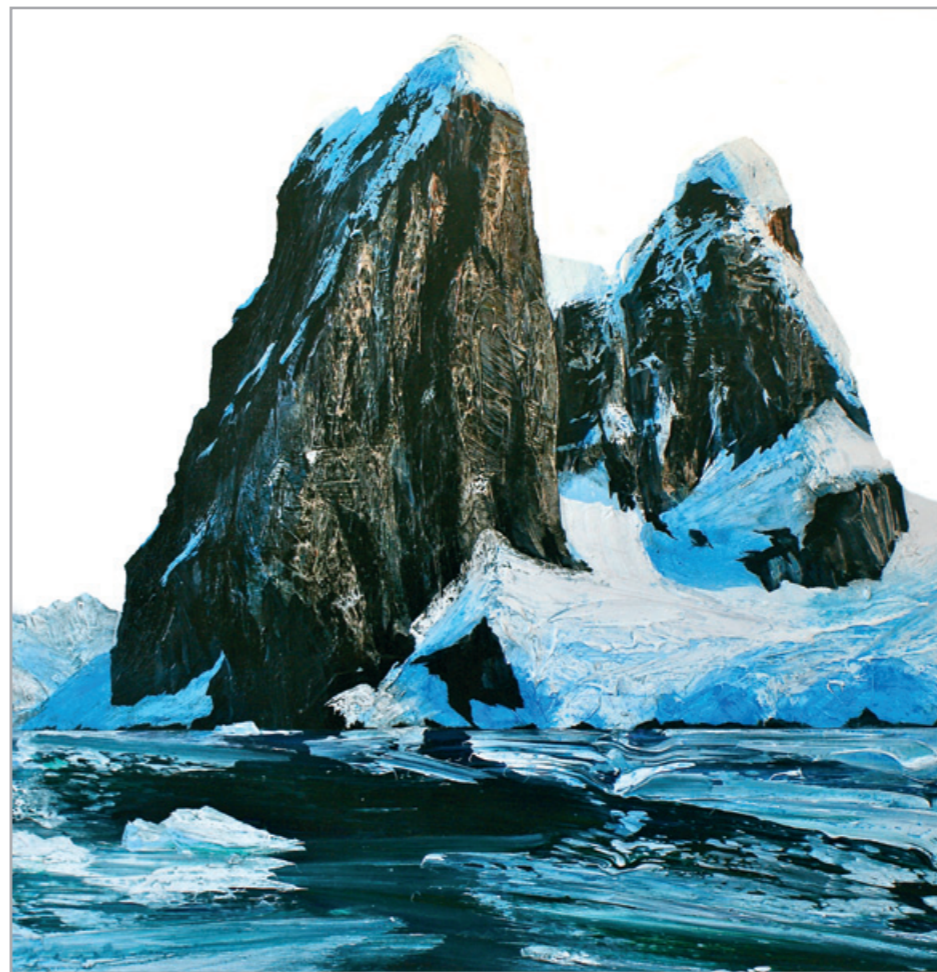
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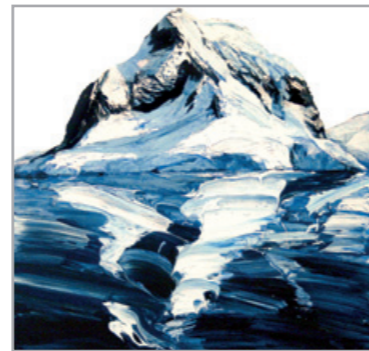
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WHITE

Neil Frazer



ABOVE
Crest 2009
acrylic on canvas 77 x 77 cm

LEFT
Ice Shadow 2009
oil over acrylic on canvas 137 x 137 cm

RIGHT
Turning Point 2009
acrylic on canvas 198 x 213 cm





COVER IMAGE

Glacial Reflection 2009
digital photograph 30 x 30 cm

ABOVE

Glacial Cracks 2009
digital photograph 30 x 30 cm

Tim Cheung

A self taught Sydney photographer, Cheung takes his inspiration from the people he has met and the places he has visited in his travels to all seven continents - from street kids in war-torn Baghdad, to archaeologists in Cyprus, to musicians in Nepal.

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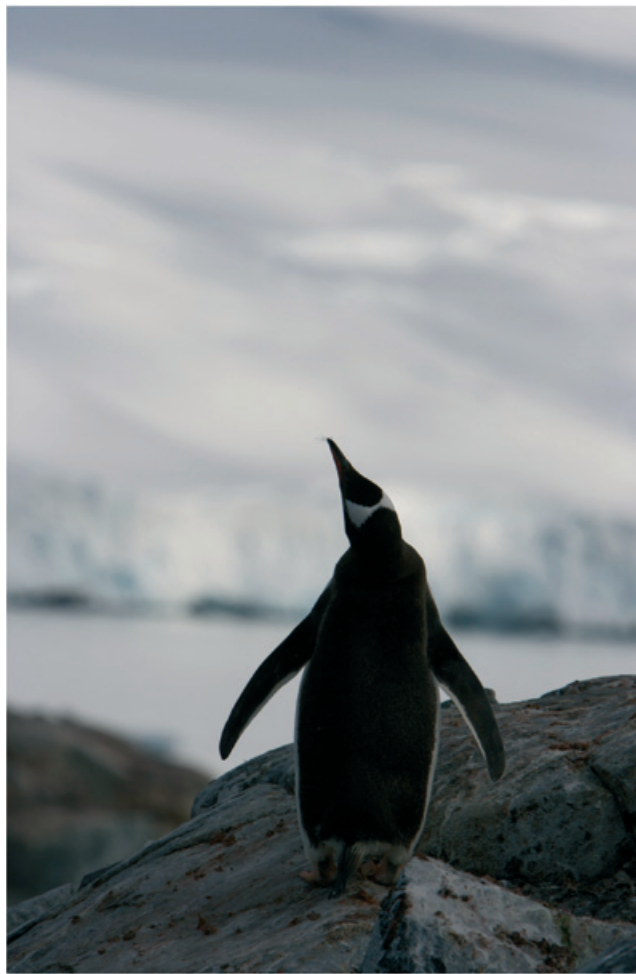
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Tim Cheung



ABOVE
Iceberg Series - Half Pipe 2009
digital photograph 30 x 45 cm

LEFT
Contemplation 2009
digital photograph 80 x 53 cm

RIGHT
Iceberg Series - Iceberg Crest 2009
digital photograph 30 x 45 cm

