

Artist's Statement for Gallows Gallery Digby de Bruin

In 2015, after eight years as Head of School at Central School of Art in Western Australia, I left to focus on my practice. A very successful exhibition followed in 2016, but perhaps more importantly for me, this refocus has confirmed aspects of my past practice and established new directions. This work continues to explore these new directions.

My work begins with extensive drawing both en plein air and in the studio. Drawing studies made in the field are a direct response to the landscape.

While my work is grounded in the figurative tradition of landscape painting, it shifts from an engagement with the real world, to a visual distillation - a synthesis of references brought back from the field and my experiences in the landscape.

These references include sketches, journal notes, photographs and actual samples collected in the environment. This provides information about the landscape from multiple perspectives. I revisited locations using digital satellite images and was fascinated by the possibilities this aerial viewpoint provided. This shift in perspective opened up entirely new ways to explore the landscape.

Biography

Studied Art at Curtin University in Western Australia (formerly Western Australian Institute of Technology).

Worked as a practicing visual artist since the 70s and has shown work in solo exhibitions in Perth and in numerous group exhibitions. His work is represented in public and private collections in Western Australia, Australia and internationally. The focus of his work has been the landscape.

He has also worked extensively in senior roles in art education at a state and national level and in an International arena in visual arts education. From 2008 to 2015 he was Head of the Art School at Central Institute of Technology in Western Australia.