2007

...down river…, exhibition

Leonie Lane  
*Southern Cross University*

Publication details


There is a link [here](#) to Leonie's site with images from *...down river*…

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...down river...
Leonie Lane

28 September - 26 October 2007
GRAFTON REGIONAL GALLERY

‘Landscape in a Figure – Gnibi’
Digitalprint on hahnemuhle
61 x 185 cms • 2007
The river is a geographical and temporal space which carries along its passage, inscriptions of memory, settlement and culture. In this body of work, a small section of the Wilsons River (between Booyong and Eltham), a part of the Richmond River Catchment area, provides a site of investigation. This place is common to both my childhood and my present with its familiar and remembered terrain. Memories and connections to 'place' become narratives around which this series of images have been based.

With a canoe as mode of transport and viewing platform, the observer is taken through an intimate and intensified space. Digital photography and collected ephemera are my raw material. These have been synthesized through various strategies to produce an autobiographical portrait of place. Choosing the 'frozen moment' still image as opposed to digital video, reinforces the stillness, reverie and peace within the experience.

The long wave rolled strips of digital imagery on aluminium, follow the rivers passage from journey’s beginning to end. They highlight the experience of the paddle with its collections of ephemera, observation of various habitations and personal memories threaded along a graphic river’s path. The viewpoint of the canoeist shifts with the action of the paddles giving, in some cases, the sense of a 270° spherical vision. The installation suggests the flow of the river and the passage of the canoe within the architecture of the gallery space.
The black and white figurative prints contrast with the hyper real colour of the panels as corroded and stark artefacts of memory. In traditional Australian image making, the perception of identity is amplified in the depiction of the figure in the landscape, offering a real and idealized account of our country. In these prints, I have reversed the compositional strategy. Here the landscape is inscribed into and grows out of the figure. The silhouettes are the objects or characters contained within the narratives as experienced and retold.

In one of these images, ‘Landscape in a Figure 1 – Gnibi’ (see page 1), the figure recalls the navigation downstream and a sighting of a black swan flying overhead in line with the river and the course of the paddler. The black swan, known in Bundjalung as Gnibi, is central to a creation story about the Southern Cross constellation. The collection of the feather remembers the moment and lays at the feet of the narrator.

Other narratives frame early childhood experiences of learning through river connections, generational influence, custodianship, environmental challenges and serendipitous moments.

The image making strategies affirm and reinforce a personal experience of a place held with great affection and connection.
... down river ... installation
digital prints on wave rolled aluminium, black and white
and coloured inkjet prints on Hahnemuhle.
variable sizes
2007
installation of digital prints on wave rolled aluminium
variable sizes
2007
ten colour inkjet concertina folded artists books on Hahnemuhle.
230 x 20cms each
2007
Landscape in the figure: ephemera
digital print on Hahnemuhle
61cm x 46cm
2007
ditioned 1/10
Landscape in the figure: inscription
digital print on Hahnemühle
61cm x 131.5cm
2007
ditioned 1/10
Landscape in the figure: cycle
digital print on Hahnemuhle
61cm x 141 cm
2007
ditioned 1/10
Landscape in the figure: dichotomy
digital print on Hahnemuhle
63 x 61 cm
2007
ditioned 1/10
Leonie Lane is a graphic designer/visual artist who teaches Digital Art and Design in the Visual Arts Program, School of Arts and Social Sciences at Southern Cross University, Lismore. Her research interests and current art practice deals with notions of ‘place’, personal narrative and social identity via digital imaging and installation. These themes are evident in her MA research project, (un)folding landscape and identity as well as the large community art project, ‘Wilsons River Experience Walk’ in Lismore. Her work references her upbringing in the Northern Rivers of NSW area seen through experience and technologies gained elsewhere. In Sydney, she was an active partner in Redback Graphix and worked as a freelance designer and with the Antart studio. Commissions have ranged from community art projects and public awareness campaigns (Literacy, Amnesty International, Aboriginal Health, Occupational Health and Safety) to music, film and theatre promotions.

ABBREVIATED EXHIBITIONS

2007  ... down river...: Grafton Region Gallery Grafton NSW: September-October
Convictions: Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, China. September
Wilson River Experience Walk: Living Together-Galamah and Hidden Stories-Mirring - Lismore NSW: July
Sixth Australian Print Symposium: National Gallery of Australia, Canberra: March-April

Part 3 Interrogating Whiteness Project: A Stammer in the Language - SCU next art gallery, Lismore NSW
Part 2 Interrogating Whiteness Project: Landscapes of Exile - Byron Bay Community Centre, Byron Bay NSW
Part 1 Interrogating Whiteness Project: A Lighter Shade of Pale- SCU next art gallery, Lismore NSW

2005  (un)folding landscape and identity’ solo exhibition: Clunes Village Common, Walker Street Clunes NSW
Wilson River Experience Walk: Gathering Place - Burbang Mah – Lismore NSW
sampling2: Southern Cross University next contemporary art space@Byron - Byron Bay NSW

2004  29th Annual Shell Fremantle Print Award exhibition – Fremantle Arts Centre, Fremantle WA

2003  Flood: stories from a city under water – Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore NSW
Feedback Phenomenon - solo show - Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore NSW

2002  seamless – Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton, NSW

COLLECTIONS
Grafton Regional Gallery, National Gallery of Australia. South Australian Art Gallery, Wollongong Art Gallery, Sydney University Collection, Australian War Memorial Gallery, Queensland Art Gallery, Mitchell Library (Sydney), Powerhouse Museum (Sydney) and many private collections.

PUBLICATIONS
• ‘The Wilsons River: personal and public reflections - investigations of ‘place’ with visual arts and community arts outcomes’
• artists, designers and creative communities ACUADS’ conference - Perth 2005
• 29th Annual Shell Fremantle Print Award exhibition catalogue judges essay – Lesley Duxbury - Fremantle Arts Centre- 2004
• Graphic Agitation - Liz McQuistan - Phaidon
• Poster Art in Australia - Roger Butler - National Gallery of Australia
• Under a Hot Tin Roof - Therese Kenyon - Tin Sheds Gallery
• Redback Graphix: Now We Are 10 (1979 - 1989) A Retrospective - Redback Graphix

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