

ANITA TRAVERSO GALLERY

EWEN ROSS

"This body of work presents as a suite of portraits, and continues my ambition to track the truth through creative practice. Metaphorically the palm of my left hand symbolises the natural patterns and rhythms of line found in the landscape along the Glenelg River in the Southern Wimmera, with particular reference to the property where I lived (Warrina).

The concept of looking down and across this country continues to drive the format of my work as does the idea of using fire to peel back the surface of the plywood which often reveals new and mysterious information to work with. Fire is part of the natural ecosystem and a valuable means of cleansing and regenerating new life and truth into this landscape. This premise remains integral to my practice.

The linear information gleaned from the palmar in theory creates a conduit for bridging the concept of portraiture and landscape. The notion of inlaying the narrative of my palm into the surface to construct an image of landscape underpins this body of work.

The significance of the left hand is relevant to the principle. It is controlled by the right brain (pattern recognition, relationship understanding), reflects the inner person, the natural self, the anima, and the ability to think laterally. It could even be considered to be part of a person's spiritual and personal development "

"Ross is sensitive to the connections of the many past generations associated with this land, stretching back beyond his own family's history in this country. He works with the surface, but also looks behind it, tearing back the first skin, so that what was embedded in the substrate is now called into dialogue with other marks and textures, highlights and shadows. In these works the artist's hand is the model for a series of shimmering, chimera-like patterned imprints, echoes, reflections, templates and coursing sequences of code – allowing us to measure one life against many generations, the transitory against the eternal, our intimate landscape against the widest horizons." – Geraldine Barlow, Curatorial Manager of International Art at the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA)



Thenar Eminence

[2010] engraving and mixed media on plywood 121.5 x 146 cm

exhibition: 2010 *Warina Portraits* – Anita Traverso Gallery, Melbourne Australia

Publication: Geraldine Barlow, "Ewen Ross", *Artist Profile* issue 12, pp.114-115

"This work presents as part of a portrait series derived solely from my left hand, indeed it is the traced inprint of the left hand on wood. It continues the story of my search for the truth of my genesis in reference to the property (Warrina) where I was raised. The notion of touching the landscape with an open hand in order to investigate the relationship between landscape and portraiture underpins this image."

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Items that best illustrate the physical, artistic, cultural, social, historical and political identity of the municipality of Yarra:

Ewen Ross is represented by Anita Traverso Gallery operating in the City of Yarra

- Items that do not require immediate and considerable additional resources related to conservation and storage:

The artwork is equipped with hanging mechanism for easy storage.

- Artworks that represent emerging innovative art forms:

Ewen Ross's skilled and expert manipulation of plywood is an innovative approach to art-making.

- Items that have the potential for display and exhibition:

The proposed work is particularly excellent in consideration for display or exhibition within a number of council contexts.

- Artworks which are of high quality, by respected emerging and mid career artists:

Ewen Ross is a respected mid-career artist whose work is in a number of important public and private collections.

ANITA TRAVERSO GALLERY
ABN 62 327 059 301
7 Albert Street Richmond
Victoria Australia 3121
T 61 (0)3 9428 7557
art@anitatraversogallery.com.au
www.anitatraversogallery.com.au