John Barnes
Reconnection - an exploration of Australian landscape beyond history and myth

John Barnes
Towards the Source
2009
oil on paper
55 x 75cm

Reconnection continues until 26 March

THE UNIVERSITY GALLERY
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OPEN Wednesday – Saturday
12 noon – 6pm or by appointment

POSTGRADUATE EXHIBITION
9 - 26 MARCH 2011
Can the materials and processes of landscape-focussed studio research, structured on an experiential foundation, act as a portal of connection with nature for an arguably disconnected humanity?

The land is the constant point of reference in Reconnection - an exploration of Australian landscape beyond history and myth. In its various manifestations, from the representational to abstract, the land acts as the point of possible reconnection between nature and a dislocated humanity driving the planet toward a post-human future.

These paintings engage with the expression of landscape in non-indigenous Australian art since British colonisation. They are reflexive responses to experience, reinforced by the historic, social, cultural and personal stories that have played a major part in the development of my values and my art.

I grew up on the shores of post-WWII Sydney Harbour and spent my early adulthood in the city. During these times I had close contact with rural Australia, but in the mid-1970s I moved to the family property at Binalong in southern NSW where I lived and worked for the next twenty-five years. In 2000 I relocated to Newcastle and it is from this vantage point that these works have developed.

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