

LUCILA NALVARTE MADDOX

Instantiating ideas of limitless space: thinking through painting

PhD EXHIBITION 21 May to 7 June 2014



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Painting, in its very failure to literally represent the invisibility of the limitless passage of time in space, can also be paradoxically presented as capable of representing the impossibility of this task. Acknowledgement of this impossibility potentially becomes both part of the painter's misery yet, at the same time, this misery is potentially attenuated by the heroically self-conscious failure of painting to account for reality. Given that painting can only aspire to providing a momentary account of reality and, therefore, cannot represent the ever-changing limitlessness of all of time and space, this self-conscious failure must exist as an exhibited feature of painting.

I challenge Paul Cézanne's statement—"I venture to depict matter as it takes some form, as the birth of order through spontaneous organisation"—by transforming perception through numerous painting processes. *Instantiating ideas of limitless space: thinking through painting* culminates with an exhibition that includes the idea that time passes yet never ends. As the universe holds time within an open-ended cosmological container, my canvas, by extension, also holds the vehicular medium of painting in an open-ended process of transformation. Painting can only represent a transitive register of fragmentary moments within this limitless process of transformation. Time and reality cannot be entirely portrayed as existing on a continuum, however, temporal fragmentation can be portrayed by slicing reality into fictional segments to evoke sensorial perceptions. Merleau-Ponty's assertion that "the distinction between form and matter can no longer be given any ultimate value", becomes an open-ended interpretation of the idea of the limitless passage of time in space—as an idea that might be rethought, actively transformed, perceptively instantiated and potentially exhibited within the imagined space of painting.

– Lucila Nalvarte Maddox 2014



FRONT COVER Lucila Nalvarte Maddox *Orchestrating the Invisible* 7 2011-2013, oil on canvas, 92 x 76 cm

ABOVE Lucila Nalvarte Maddox *Virtual Reality* 4 2012-2013, oil on canvas, 26 x 30 cm

OPPOSITE Lucila Nalvarte Maddox *Invisibility/Visibility* 2013-2014, oil on canvas, 88 x 165 cm

BACK COVER Lucila Nalvarte Maddox *Slices of Time – Fragmented Space* 2010-2012, pastel on paper, 16.5 x 19 cm