

Private Viewing - Jeremy Kirwan – Ward

Fremantle artist Jeremy Kirwan – Ward provides in this exhibition, access to a selection of drawings and paintings from his private collection, which traces the exploration of his ideas over twenty years.

Drawing

Drawing for Kirwan – Ward is the primary tool he employs to track his imagination while his sketch books provide a practical store of his thinking. He uses drawing as a means of recording visual experience; collecting primary notes in respect to the real world - its form and colour. Through the process of stepping from one drawing to the next he intuitively processes this primary source material with the aim of creating formal compositions.

The majority of his drawings are small and are made in sketch books. They contain evidence of the first observations of a particular place or sight, many of which are drawn on location. These sketches are then transfigured through a series of secondary drawings and colour notes. It is in these secondary drawings that Kirwan – Ward strips away all reference to representation and illusion – creating bold linear schematics with the aim of setting out a blueprint for a new painting. Many of Kirwan – Ward's sketch books are kept in his studio library, set on a bookcase for easy reference. They are a precious record of recurring compositions from which the artist draws inspiration.

The seeds of his most recent and monumental painting project *Undercurrent*, are captured in three drawings which are exhibited in this exhibition.

Painting

Jeremy Kirwan - Ward's painting demonstrates his profound knowledge of colour theory in making thinly painted surfaces of jarring and subtle chromatic contrasts. His distinct interest in colour rather than the materiality of paint draws on his experience and love of light and water, informed by the early influence of the revered Western Australian colourist painter George Haynes.

In the sample of paintings presented here is an insight into the progress of Kirwan-Ward's painting process. The artist considers that these works represent important breakthroughs; that they show the evolution of his method from the modelled paint surfaces of the easel painter, to the controlled masked process of applying layers of paint to flat or tilted canvases.

The evolution of his vision is rendered perfectly in *Undercurrent*, on show in the main gallery, where he effectively dissolves the boundary between sensation and paint.

Jeremy Kirwan – Ward is represented by Perth Galleries where he is showing new work until June 3, 2007. For more information visit www.perthgalleries.com.au

For more information about the City of Fremantle Art Collection please pick up a copy of *Revealing from the Gallery* or visit the Collection webpage www.freofocus.com.au and follow the links to Arts and Culture.

Private Viewing – Jeremy Kirwan – Ward Check List - Fremantle Arts Centre

1.

Untitled (1993 - 96)
acrylic paint on board
60 x 60 cms
Collection of the artist

2.

Colourblind #1 (1997)
acrylic paint on canvas
50 x 50 cms
City of Fremantle Art Collection no. 978

3.

E42 (2003)
acrylic paint on canvas
29 x 59.5 cms
Collection of Helen Smith

4.

(study for undercurrent) (2007)
pen on paper
11 x 14.6 cms
Collection of the artist

5.

(study for undercurrent) (2007)
pen on paper
20 x 12.5 cms
Collection of the artist

6.

(study for undercurrent) (2007)
pen and pencil on paper
21 x 29.5 cms
Collection of the artist

7.

(spiral bound sketch book – page of studies for paintings) (c1997)
pen on paper
21 x 16 cms
Collection of the artist

8.

(hard cover sketch book - page of preliminary drawings based on a hull of a yacht) (1984)
pen on paper
30.5 x 22.5 cms
Collection of the artist

9.
(hard cover sketch book – studies Ahmedabad, India) (1989)
pencil on paper
21.5 x 14 cms
Collection of the artist
10.
(hard cover sketch book - study of Guger Street subway) (1993)
pencil on paper
21.5 x 14 cms
Collection of the artist
11.
(perfect bound sketch book – studies of Guger Street subway) (1994)
pen on paper
29.5 x 21 cms
Collection of the artist
12.
(spiral bound sketch book – studies of water) (1995)
pen on paper
30.5 x 24 cms
Collection of the artist
13.
(spiral bound sketch book – studies for 'Surfacing') (2000)
pen on paper
30.5 x 24 cms
Collection of the artist



2.



Jeremy Kirwan-Ward in his studio preparing *Undercurrent*
Photographs courtesy of the artist and Helen Smith

