

About

***Pressing Currents* - A selection of new work by Hobie Porter**

On display till the 31st July

My new work focuses on unruly, out-of-control seas, a subject often employed to invoke sublime readings of grandeur or awe. The contemporary sublime extends the tradition of expanding beyond oneself and greeting uncertainty, with full knowledge that such a personal realisation/feeling is infinitesimal within incomparable global vastness.

This collection bears a particular sublime flavour, one that draws upon an unexpected mixture of themes and genres. These include sprinklings of science fiction, archaeology, futurism, the magnificent, the miniscule, order and chaos, all blended together with restraint. The paintings could be described as a collection of maelstroms, but I have sought to allude to something else, an estranged equilibrium. To this end, I emphasise the importance of nuanced colour, delicate paint-handling techniques and spatial skies. Ideally, the collection doubles as both recognition of indeterminate turmoil and an offering toward an unfamiliar point of tranquillity.

The circle has become an important motif in my recent work. Its shape suggests both completeness and limitlessness. The rise and demise of past civilisations is evident in their fragmentary artefacts. The recent Japanese Tsunami catastrophe intensifies my concerns that Modernity is headed for its own 'full-circle'. However, I also see the circle as a sign of hope; having no beginning and therefore no end, it is rich in transformative power.

LANDSCAPE, ENVIRONMENT & PLACE

Current artist statement

Porter's paintings encompass both grandiose vistas and the minutiae found within them. His work explores aesthetic and cultural understandings of the European landscape painting tradition, while repositioning this heritage within contemporary contexts. He is interested in visually representing land and atmosphere as an integrated whole. His visual motifs quietly beckon contemplation of one's own personal role within, and relationship to one's surrounding environment.

BIOGRAPHY

Hobie Porter has an Honours Degree in Visual Arts, a Diploma of Education and is a Henry Lawson Scholar. Originally born in Sydney, Hobie has lived the majority of his life in the Tweed Valley.

He seeks out microelements, and places them within macrocosmic landscapes. His macro-scapes are sublime vistas, really large things, painted with a delicate smallness. 'The large and the small are interconnected in the world around us. This is my point'. His paintings suggest signs of human impact, human presence on both scales. They are characteristically iconic, almost Dali-esque emblems to connectivity, magic, change and mortality.

He was recently selected as a finalist for the Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship and included in the prestigious Conrad Jupiters Art Prize in 2006. He is represented by Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, and regularly shows in northern NSW and southern Qld.