

The Directors of Arthouse Gallery, Di & Ali Yeldham invite you to the opening of a new collection of paintings by Hobie Porter

HOBIE PORTER

Full Circle

ARTIST TALK & CHAMPAGNE PREVIEW
6 - 8 pm, Wednesday 31 August 2011

Join us in conversation with the artist
2 pm, Saturday 10 September 2011

ARTHOUSEGALLERY

66 McLachlan Ave, Rushcutters Bay NSW 2011
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View exhibition online

www.arthousegallery.com.au

Cover image: Fractal Chain 130 x 96 cm oil on unbleached polyester canvas



Photograph by Justin Ealand, Bushturkey Studio

Over the last 18 months, Hobie Porter has been frequenting the beaches of Northern NSW in their wilder, windswept moments hunting for material for his latest paintings. Adopting beach-combing to collect refuse such as rusty chains, sun-bleached rope, and barnacle-encrusted bottles, he explores our landscape and sets the scene of our environmental future in a subtle, meditative, yet anxious way.

Porter's impressive and compelling new work depicts intricately observed flotsam suspended over vast seascapes. These weathered items of manufacture - lost, abandoned - have possibly been jettisoned by an excessive society into the ocean. Encrusted with sea life, these forms are reminiscent of artefacts dredged up from a previous civilisation. They hover just above turbulent seas which threaten to engulf their story into a great silence, revealing the immensity and fragility of his surrounding environment. The results are both enigmatic and sublime.

Hobie weaves layers of meaning and paint into his impressive landscapes: the collection evokes a strange and unexpected tranquillity within the maelstrom. The sea's unruly energy is countered by spacious skies. The circle has become an important motif, suggesting both completeness and limitlessness. The rise and demise of past civilisations is evident in their fragmentary artefacts. Hobie considers nature and civilisation as an inseparably intertwined, yet recognises a yawning disconnect between our present culture and its surrounding environment. The recent Japanese tsunami highlights his concern that Modernity's reluctance to consider its impact on environment (and vice-versa) leaves it open to a 'full-circle' of its own making. The circle does offer a sense of optimism however; having no beginning and therefore no end, it is rich in transformative power offering hope for a brighter future.

Hobie studied visual art at Southern Cross University, Lismore and Pratt Institute, New York and was the recipient of the Henry Lawson Scholarship. His work has recently been included in exhibitions such as 'The New Arcadia', Lismore Regional Gallery, and 'Exquisite: Small Landscapes' Gold Coast City Art Gallery. He was recently awarded Second prize, Border Art Prize, and was a finalist in the Conrad-Jupiters Art Prize and the 2006 Brett Whiteley Travelling Scholarship. He was featured in the popular ABC series "Painting Australia".





Tides Turn 109 x 77 cm oil on unbleached polyester canvas



Consumption: not cricket 36 x 36 cm oil on unbleached polyester canvas



Resorption 135 x 120 cm oil on unbleached polyester canvas