

Tony Lloyd

Elemental

Photo: "The Drift" (2015)

Oil on linen, 120 x 61 cm

The Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong

gallery website

(<http://www.thecatstreetgallery.com>)

Tony Lloyd:

Elemental

April 14 - 30

Reception: April 14th, 6-9pm

The Cat Street Gallery

(<http://www.thecatstreetgallery.com>)

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The Cat Street Gallery is thrilled to debut Tony Lloyd with his upcoming show 'ELEMENTAL' in our newest gallery location 50 Tung Street.

Lloyd returns to The Cat Street Gallery for a second solo show with a mind-blowingly realistic portrayal of mountainous landscapes. This exhibition, "Elemental" reveals a cool world of enigmatic landscapes. Painted in icy blues and steely greys, his images have a cinematic majesty and a dreamlike strangeness to them. Mountains appear to sway, lakes reveal false reflections, roads disappear into darkness. A sense of otherness pervades his world.

Lloyd's paintings are informed and inspired by cinematography. Working from low-resolution images grabbed from video, Lloyd subtly distorts the landscape, stripping it of unnecessary features and exaggerating aspects to present an elemental view of the world. These altered landscapes retain a sense of place but it is an archetypal impression that they convey. These locations could be from anywhere, and from any time.



"The Overlook" (2015) Oil on linen 120 x 61 cm

FAi: Where did you grow up?

Tony Lloyd: I grew up in the suburbs of Melbourne. A flat and boring landscape of houses that seemed to go on forever. On certain streets you could catch a glimpse of a big blue hill in the distance called Mount Dandenong, it's not a very high mountain but it was something different in the landscape and I was always drawn to looking at it.

FAi: When did you realize you wanted to be an artist?

Tony Lloyd: I'm told that I was drawing before I could walk. I think I always assumed I would be an artist. My father was a painter and I grew up with his oil paintings in the home. At one point I thought I'd be a musician as well but I was always more serious about art. Wanting to be an artist wasn't the issue, how to become an artist was the difficult part.



"Zenith" (2015) Oil on linen 46 x 61 cm

FAi: Who are your influences?

Tony Lloyd: Gerhard Richter is a great source of inspiration to me, I love the way he moves paint around. I admire Ed Ruscha and Mark Tansey for their use of monochromatic palettes. Anselm Kiefer for the gravitational intensity of his images. Caspar David Friedrich for defining the genre of Romantic landscape painting. I'm also intrigued by a

Tony Lloyd currently lives and works in Melbourne. He has won copious awards including the 2014 Belle Arti prize and the 2012 John Leslie Art Prize. Lloyd has received Development Grants from the Australia Council and has had artist residencies at The British School at Rome, and in Amsterdam and Beijing. Lloyd has shown widely in Australia and internationally. His paintings are in many public collections including the State Library of Victoria and RMIT Gallery and in private collections around the world.



"Eminence" (2015) Oil on linen 46 x 61 cm

seventeenth century Dutch painter named Hercules Seghers who painted eerie landscapes without figures in them.

FAi: What was the extent of your art education? Who were your mentors?

Tony Lloyd: I studied at RMIT University in Melbourne and attained a Masters degree. There were many mentors, Jon Campbell, Peter Ellis, Godwin Bradbeer, Wilma Tabacco, Andy Thomas and David Harley. I have to say that my fellow students at the time were a very important part of the education process, artists such as Juan Ford, Simon Finn, Chris Bond, Darren Wardle and Sam Leach.

FAi: What is your greatest achievement?

Tony Lloyd: This is a very hard thing to evaluate, I see all my work as part of one ongoing project but I'm very proud of the prizes I have won and the public galleries that display my work. Being an artist has given me some incredible experiences, I've shown my work in many cities in Europe and Asia. I've had residencies at the British School at Rome working with artists, archaeologists and historians exploring the deep history of Italy. I've travelled through Arnhem land with Aboriginal artists and seen incredible rock paintings and sacred sites that are unimaginably old. I travelled through China and Tibet with Chinese artists immersing myself in the rich cultural life and incredible landscapes there. I've held Turner watercolours in my hands in the backrooms of the Tate. Being an artist and the experiences it has given me is achievement enough.

FAi: Are you a mountain climber?

Tony Lloyd: I'm not a climber but I do like hiking through the wilderness and especially on mountains. In Australia we don't have many mountains and the ones we have are quite small in comparison to ranges on other continents. Only a few become snow capped in winter and they are nothing like the mountains I paint. I never even saw snow until I was an adult.

FAi: What are your plans for the future?

Tony Lloyd: After my exhibition in Hong Kong I'm going to travel through the North of Vietnam. I'm looking forward to seeing the mountains of Sapa and the limestone castles of Ha Long bay. Hopefully I'll find some new imagery there for my paintings.

FAi: What is the greatest challenge you have faced?

Tony Lloyd: The greatest challenge is always what to paint next.