

Steven Harvey

Ark 44, Paintings from Kakadu

5 September – 1 October 2009



Liverpool Street Gallery is pleased to announce Steven Harvey's forthcoming solo exhibition, *Ark 44, Paintings from Kakadu*, which will be on view from 5 September – 1 October 2009. The exhibition will consist of Harvey's characteristically large, heavily textured paintings and boldly coloured works on handmade paper.

Steven Harvey is an abstractionist whose paintings give form to his sense of immersion and participation in the environment. Frequent journeys into the Australian desert, including his most recent trip to Kakadu in June 2009, have formed an integral dialogue to Harvey's works whereby he transforms his experiences into archetypal landscapes.

Ark 44, Paintings from Kakadu, explores concepts of nature and the metaphysical relationships between humans and their environment, demonstrating an intuitive perception of the pivotal balance between vulnerability and strength. Having spent two weeks alone journeying through the outback, Harvey's paintings are not of specific locations but rather the emotional journeys that certain places trigger through the use of colour, form and texture.

Characteristic to Harvey's formal aesthetic are his heavily impastoed surfaces, in which he uses his canvas in a topographical sense creating an environment with evolving layers of paint that are then sanded back to reveal dormant reservoirs of colour. Working mainly with oils, inks and acrylics, Harvey welds his colours to shape form and create tensions in space. Colour also serves a transcendental function – the potential to experience spiritual knowledge or, at the very least and if the viewer is prepared to spend some time with the paintings, self-knowledge.

Also featuring in Harvey's exhibition are his double painting constructions, a concept that has gradually been evolving and which fuse the disciplines of painting and sculpture. These three dimensional works such as *Gunlom Billabong, Kakadu* (illustrated above), invite the viewer to determine the boundaries of form in which the paintings redefine themselves as objects and free standing entities. Harvey's abstractions are challenging, compelling and engaging.

Steven Harvey gained a Bachelor of Art in Education at the City Art Institute in Sydney in 1986 and completed a Post Graduate Diploma in 1989 before graduating in 1994 with a Masters of Art in Painting from the University of New South Wales College of Fine Arts. From 1993 to 1999 Harvey exhibited work in solo and group exhibitions at the Coventry Gallery, Sydney and in recent years has held bi-annual solo exhibitions with Martin Browne Fine Art in Sydney and Niagara Galleries, Melbourne. In 1996 Harvey took part in the Artist in Residence program at Arthur Boyd's Bundanon Trust Studios and during 1998, he was selected as the Inaugural Artist in Residence for the University of New South Wales. He has participated in a number of key touring and invitational exhibitions, including *Painting 2002* at the S.H Ervin National Trust Gallery, Sydney and *A Tribute to Western Australia* at the Holmes à Court Gallery, Perth in 2003. In 2008 and 2009, Harvey was a finalist in the NSW Government Plein Air Painting Prize. Steven Harvey is represented in public and private collections including The University of New South Wales, Tamworth Regional Gallery, The Macquarie Group Collection, Art Bank and private collections in America, England, Australia and New Zealand. Harvey lives and works in Sydney.

Image: *Road to Kakadu*, 2009 double painting construction oil on canvas 65 x 70 cm. For further information about the artist, exhibition or images please contact Liverpool Street Gallery.