

# **STEVEN HARVEY**

## **Neanderthal Scholar – Where I found it was where I left it**

**8 September – 4 October 2012**



**Liverpool Street Gallery is pleased to announce Steven Harvey's upcoming solo exhibition, *Neanderthal Scholar – Where I found it was where I left it*, on view from 8 September - 4 October 2012, opening on Thursday 13 September 2012, 6-8pm.**

Steven Harvey is a Sydney-based artist whose paintings give form to his sense of immersion and participation in the environment. Journeys into the Australian desert and coastline, as well as remote locations including the islands of Papua New Guinea, the Rajasthan desert, India or the Daintree Rainforest have formed an integral element in Harvey's process, as he translates his subjective experiences into archetypal pictorial dramas. Whilst his work sits within the abstract idiom, it is ground in a sense of place but still retains an open-ended interpretation.

"I savour solitude, especially when I find myself enveloped by the great, vast landscape of this country. To walk alone... allows me to consider what instinctively emerges in the silence... I am left to question, how does one paint this experience of nature?" **(Steven Harvey, 2008)**

"I was captivated by the originality of his paling-like slabs with remarkable control of tone and colour... Steven has the gift for making the complicated simple. He plays an intriguing game with Yin and Yang where emptiness is as full as fullness, where space breathes so easily in and out... sense of touch, rasp, grit and coagulation, his sensitivity to water transparent glazes... paintings

have that power of mythic evocation...reaffirmed my opinion that here we had someone of very rare talent." **(John Olsen, 2005)**

Characteristic to Harvey's formal aesthetic are his heavily impastoed surfaces; the laborious accretion of layers of oil paint on canvas become sculptural forms in themselves. The surface, in a topographical sense, creates an environment where evolving layers of paint are eroded through sanding and grinding back to reveal dormant reservoirs of colour. Working mainly with oils, inks and acrylics, Harvey wields his colours in slabs to create a strong material presence. The paintings exude physicality, not only in their scale but also in the grit, rasp and coagulation of paint.

"His early work, characterised by the voluminous use of paint and stylised geometric forms...based on memories of journeys...Harvey's recent works have developed a more rugged visual presence..." **(Courtney Kidd, 'New Work', *Artworld*, June-July 2008, p132)**

Steven Harvey (b. 1965, Sydney) undertook a Bachelor of Art (Education) at the City Art Institute, Sydney in 1986 and completed a Post Graduate Diploma in 1989 before graduating in 1994 with a Masters of Art (Painting) from the University of New South Wales' College of Fine Arts. From 1993 to 2002 Harvey exhibited in solo and group exhibitions at the Coventry Gallery, Sydney and Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney. In recent years he also held solo exhibitions with Niagara Galleries, Melbourne and since 2004 with Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney. 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 group exhibitions, including *Artists Artists*, Benalla Regional Gallery (2011), *Painting* at the S.H Ervin Gallery, The National Trust, Sydney (2002) and *A Tribute to Western Australia* at the Holmes à Court Gallery, Perth (2003). In 2008, 2009 and 2010, 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, New England Regional Art Museum, The Macquarie Group Collection, Art Bank and private collections in America, England, Australia and New Zealand. Harvey lives and works in Sydney.

Image details: *Giotto's Window (Piece of the Sky)*, 2009-2010, oil on polyester canvas, 142 x 110 cm  
*Green Hornet*, 2011 - 2012, oil and ground pigment on polyester canvas, 67 x 76 cm  
Photography: Michel Brouet. Image courtesy the artist and Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney

**For further information about the artist, exhibition or high resolution images please contact Liverpool Street Gallery on [info@liverpoolstgallery.com.au](mailto:info@liverpoolstgallery.com.au) or 02 8353 7799.**