

STEVEN HARVEY

Audi, Vide, Tace

24 August – 19 September 2013



Liverpool Street Gallery is pleased to announce Steven Harvey's upcoming solo exhibition, *Audi, Vide, Tace* on view from 24 August – 19 September 2013, to be opened on Thursday 29 August, 6-8 pm. The exhibition's title refers to the Latin Proverb, "*Audi, Vide, Tace, si vis vivere in pace*" meaning "Hear, see, be silent, if you would live in peace".

Steven Harvey is a Sydney-based artist whose paintings give form to his sense of immersion and participation in the environment – whether the "exterior" landscape, or the "interior" studio space. For Harvey, 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 his 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 or nature, yet also retains open-ended interpretations.

Characteristic to his formal aesthetic are his heavily impastoed surfaces, the laborious accretion of layers of oil paint on canvas that become sculptural forms in themselves. The surface of his paintings, in a topographical sense, create an environment where evolving layers of paint are eroded and rebuilt through a process of sanding and grinding to reveal dormant reservoirs of colour. Working mainly with oils, inks and acrylics, Harvey wields colour in textured 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.

QUOTE SELECTION

"Thick paint has sculptural qualities, which is why I give it a hard time – layering, grinding, sanding and scratching it."

(Steven Harvey, "New Work – Steven Harvey", *Art World*, June/July 2008, p132)

"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)



BIOGRAPHY

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 at Niagara Galleries, Melbourne and since 2004 at 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, which culminated in a solo exhibition titled *Latitude* held at the University. He has participated in a number of touring and invitational exhibitions, including *Artist 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 regular finalist in the NSW Government *Plein Air Painting Prize*. Steven Harvey is represented in public and private collections including: New England Regional Art Museum, Tamworth Regional Art Gallery, The University of New South Wales, The Macquarie Group Collection, Artbank and private collections in America, England, Australia and New Zealand. Harvey lives and works in Sydney.

Images: *Audi, Vide Tace - Fundevogel*, 2013, ground chalk and oil pigment on polyester, 67 x 76 cm

Audi, Vide, Tace – Icecubit, 2013, ground chalk and oil pigment on polyester, 67 x 76 cm

Audi, Vide Tace, series, 2013, acrylic and Indian powdered pigment on handmade paper stack, 27 x 33 cm

Photography: Michel Brouet

Images courtesy of Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney

For further information about the artist and exhibition, or if you require high res images, please contact Liverpool Street Gallery on 02 8353 7799 or info@liverpoolstgallery.com.au