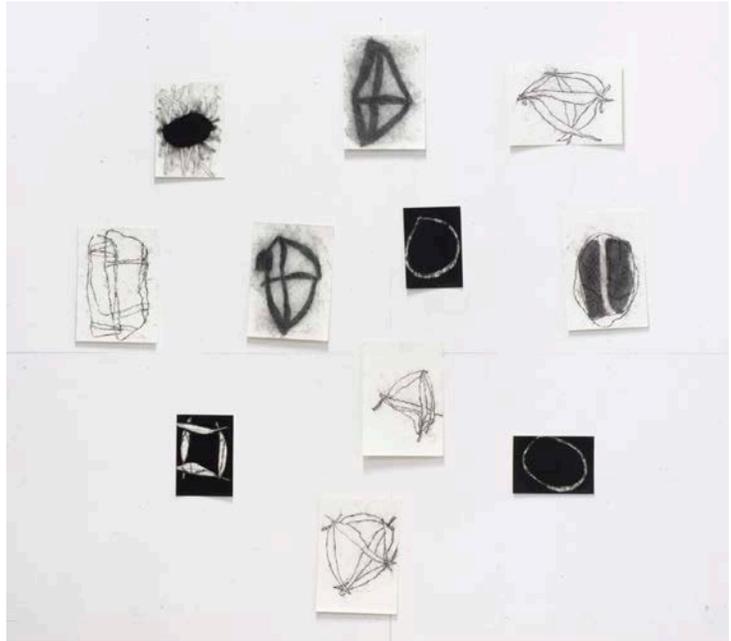


PETER SHARP

Eucalypt

4 - 30 October 2014



Liverpool Street Gallery is pleased to announce Peter Sharp's upcoming solo exhibition of new paintings, sculptures and works on paper by Peter Sharp. Titled *Eucalypt*, the exhibition will open on Thursday 9 October 2014, 6-8pm.

Peter Sharp is a Sydney based artist whose work explores nature and its elements; drawing from his surroundings, Sharp examines the micro and macrocosms of life in nature. Sharp states, "I'm not interested in a literal translation but a poetic moment that speaks of things in nature. I am interested in the conversation between Western and Indigenous landscape painting."

Nature is a central focus in the work of Sharp. He lives near the coast in the southern suburbs of Sydney and is a keen surfer and fisherman. In contrast is the arid desert of Fowler's Gap in far northwest New South Wales, which Sharp has been making annual trips to for the past two decades. These two extreme environments – desert and sea – underpin his practice and echo in the works through strong colour, gestural line and fluid forms.

Eucalyptus (2014) (left) derives from a charcoal drawing of gum leaves Sharp made whilst he was visiting Fowler's Gap. Upon returning to the studio, Sharp realised the larger painting. The shapes, forms and colour relate to various elements in the desert including the lyrical contour and silvery colour of the eucalyptus leaves.

Sharp has a sustained relationship with places that feature in his work (coast, bush or desert) and it is the sense of being immersed in the landscape as evident in the work of Indigenous artists that has had a profound effect on his practice and approach to depicting the landscape. The innate understanding that Indigenous people have with their country – a relationship that cannot be separated from their experience of it – is of central importance to Sharp. This exhibition, as with earlier series, presents

Sharp's development of a language in which to record and communicate his engagement with his surroundings. Sharp states: "I fall in love with a subject, and then make work that is an exploration of the 'thing' and its place in the world. It's about making sense of things."

QUOTE SELECTION

"Sharp's paintings, with their fluid lines and deep colours, worked surfaces and biomorphic forms, are abstractions of the landscape. Or, more precisely they are records of Sharp's *reactions* to the landscape. Visual interpretations that serve witness to his process." Andrew Frost, 'Abstracting Nature' *Peter Sharp: Will to Form*, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Art Centre, p13

"Sharp is an artist who is always examining and thinking through his approach, refining his techniques and reflecting on the nature of the act of translation that occurs when an artist attempts to record their experience on canvas." Andrew Frost, 'Abstracting Nature' *Peter Sharp: Will to Form*, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Art Centre, p13

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Sydney in 1964, Sharp completed a Bachelor of Art Education at City Art Institute, Sydney in 1987 before graduating with a Masters of Fine Art at the University of New South Wales, College of Fine Arts in 1992. From 1989-1999, Sharp held regular solo exhibitions at Coventry Gallery, Sydney. In 1996, he was awarded the *Jacaranda Drawing Prize* and in the following year was granted a residency at the Cite' des Arts Internationale, Paris, where he collaborated with French printmakers to make a series of lithographs and etchings. In 1999, he was invited to exhibit at Kunstraum 34 in Stuttgart, Germany. In 2001, Sharp participated in the award winning television documentary *Two-Thirds Sky*, which culminated in an exhibition of the same title held at the Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre. His paintings have been exhibited in the *Wynne Prize* (1996, 2003), *Sulman Prize* (1998, 2008) and *Dobell Prize for Drawing* (2009) at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. In 2009, Sharp was invited to be part of the Taronga Zoo Artist-in-Residence program which was featured on the ABC. Sharp has exhibited widely in group exhibitions including: *Insight Radical: Where Science Meets Art*, Griffin Gallery, London (2013), *Not the Way Home*, S.H. Ervin Gallery, The National Trust, NERAM, Broken Hill City Art Gallery (2012), *Personal Space: Contemporary Chinese and Australian Prints*, Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney (2011), *Artist Artists*, Benalla Art Gallery, Victoria (2011), *Silk and Sand: Chinese and Australian Prints*, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, University of New South Wales, Sydney; The Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, China (2008) and *Contemporaneous: Australian Contemporary Painting 1*, Wangaratta Art Gallery, Victoria (2008). In 2012, Sharp held his first survey at Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre titled *Peter Sharp: Will to Form*, curated by Liz Nowell and featured works from over a 12-year period. This survey also culminated in the publication *Peter Sharp: Will to Form*, a 120-page fully illustrated hardback catalogue, which includes essays by Andrew Frost and Gillian Serisier. In 2014, Sharp will feature in the inaugural *Dobell Australian Drawing Biennial* at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, curated by Anne Ryan. Sharp's work is held in many significant public and private collections including the National Gallery of Australia, The Holmes a Court Collection, Artbank, The Macquarie Group Collection, New England Regional Art Museum and private collections in Australia and overseas.

Image details: *Eucalyptus*, 2014, oil on linen, 152 x 130 cm; *Installation of Eucalypt Drawings*, 2014 charcoal on paper, dimensions variable. Photography: Michel Brouet, Sydney

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