



LEE BETHEL
AT THIS POINT IN TIME

29 JULY - 15 AUGUST 2020

Egg &
DART

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The Egg & Dart emerges with a new collection of work from Lee Bethel; *At This Point In Time*. There is a grandness to the scale in these pieces but the engagement between body and surface remains time-based and intimate. There are few gestural or performative movements. We have a slippery sense of materiality here. Rag paper and wax is worked hard to evoke concrete formwork, circles punctuating the paper irregularly. In other pieces, the paper feels like stacked and undulating strips of calico. There are surfaces suggestive of layers of shale that might cut the skin, but these too are paper with pigmented wax applied.

Bethel has a motto: “Draw it first to know it,” and many of these works are established via the grid which then disassembles through process and layering. Some grids disappear and then one work re-establishes it in a punkish gesture with thick white brushmarks crossing a jagged ash grey. (It is a revisiting – a new magnification of the crossed line pattern from her father’s handkerchief.) The edges of the works are resilient but feel delicate and workable. Take a note of the engagement between work and edge and frame and wall. Some surfaces float, others suggest monolithic forms, housing, containment, a floor or a wall thoroughly worked over.

In lockdown, Lee Bethel returned to reading *The Poetics of Space*, Gaston Bachelard’s inquiry on the home as phenomenological site. Bachelard proposed the house as “a nest for dreaming, a shelter for imagining”¹. I saw in Lee Bethel’s home studio a more condensed version of that: a space for the collection of fragments, projects and contemplative sensibilities. The natural light in her studio

also seems to emanate from these paintings. A cream white encaustic grid piece glows from within like the skylights that illuminate her studio.

There is sculpture too. A construction of encaustic on paper with bamboo supports is the most direct nod to Bachelard’s poetics of the home. The folly is a design intended to look like a romantic ruin, but Bethel brings us the Folly as an ambiguous dreamscape structure.

All the works are named. (Lee would feel cheated if a work didn’t offer a name.) The titles provide a little attachment to language that we might use to enter these surfaces. Then we go under and find a slippery materiality where rag paper and wax suggest something much heavier. What is also exciting now is the sustained investigation of luminous grids at a larger scale. The new scale is evocative of construction and transformation. As Bachelard might wonder, “How, in these fragments of space, did the human being achieve silence ... the various retreats of solitary daydreaming?”²

Melody Willis

1, 2 Bachelard, Gaston 1964 *Poetics of Space*, The Orion Press, Inc. p6, p9.

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At the Edge
2020, Oil and Encaustic on paper on board
80 x 80 x 10 cm
\$3,200 framed

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The Tenderness of Rain
2020, Oil and Encaustic on tracing paper on board
99 x 99 x 10 cm
\$3,200 framed
SOLD

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The Tenderness of Rain
2020, Oil and Encaustic on tracing paper on board
99 x 99 x 10 cm
\$3,200 framed
SOLD

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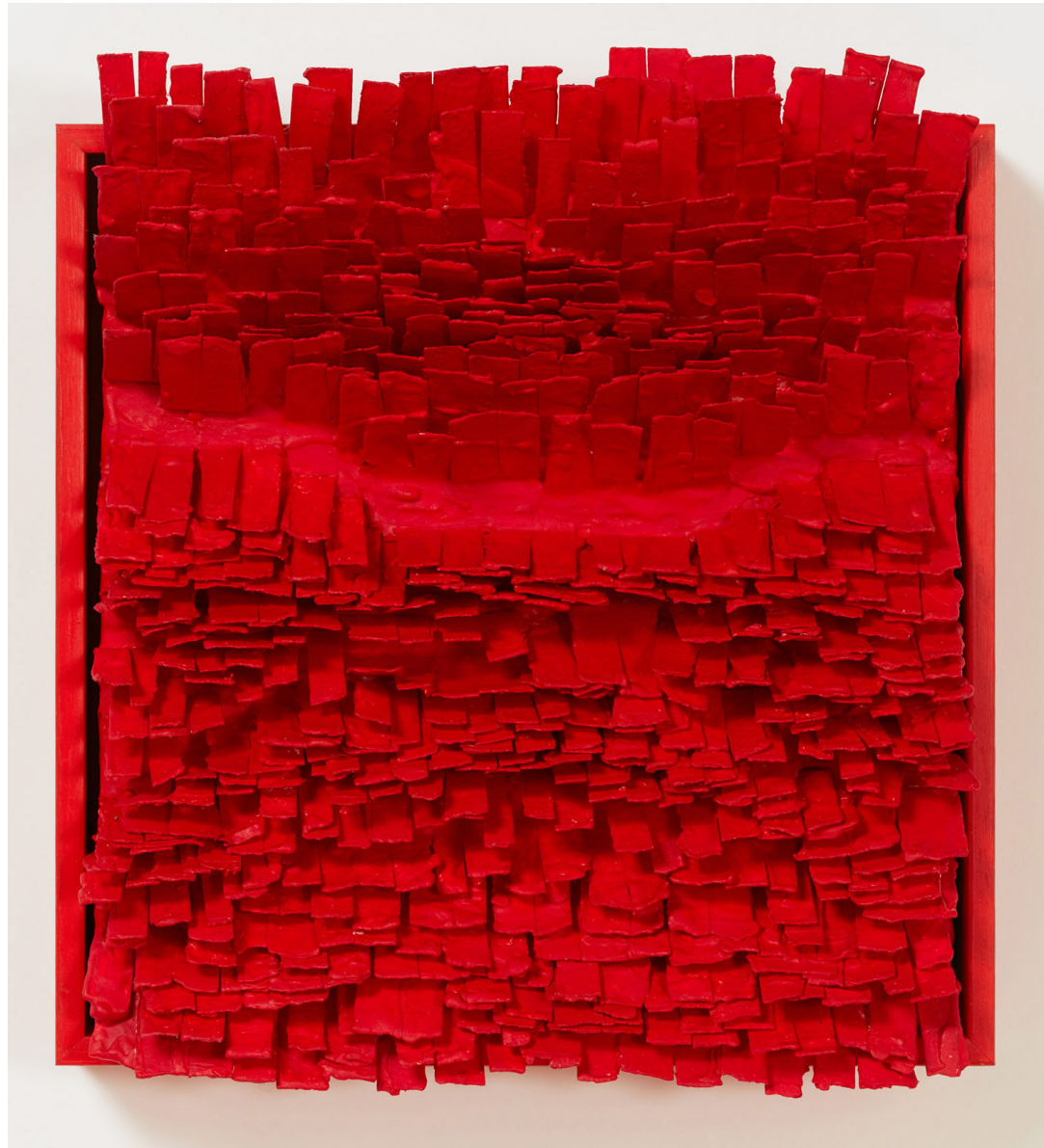
*Spreading Wide Her Narrow Hands to Gather
Paradise*
2020, Oil on ripped paper on board
80 x 80 x 10 cm
\$3,200 framed

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*Spreading Wide Her Narrow Hands to Gather
Paradise*
2020, Oil on ripped paper on board
80 x 80 x 10 cm
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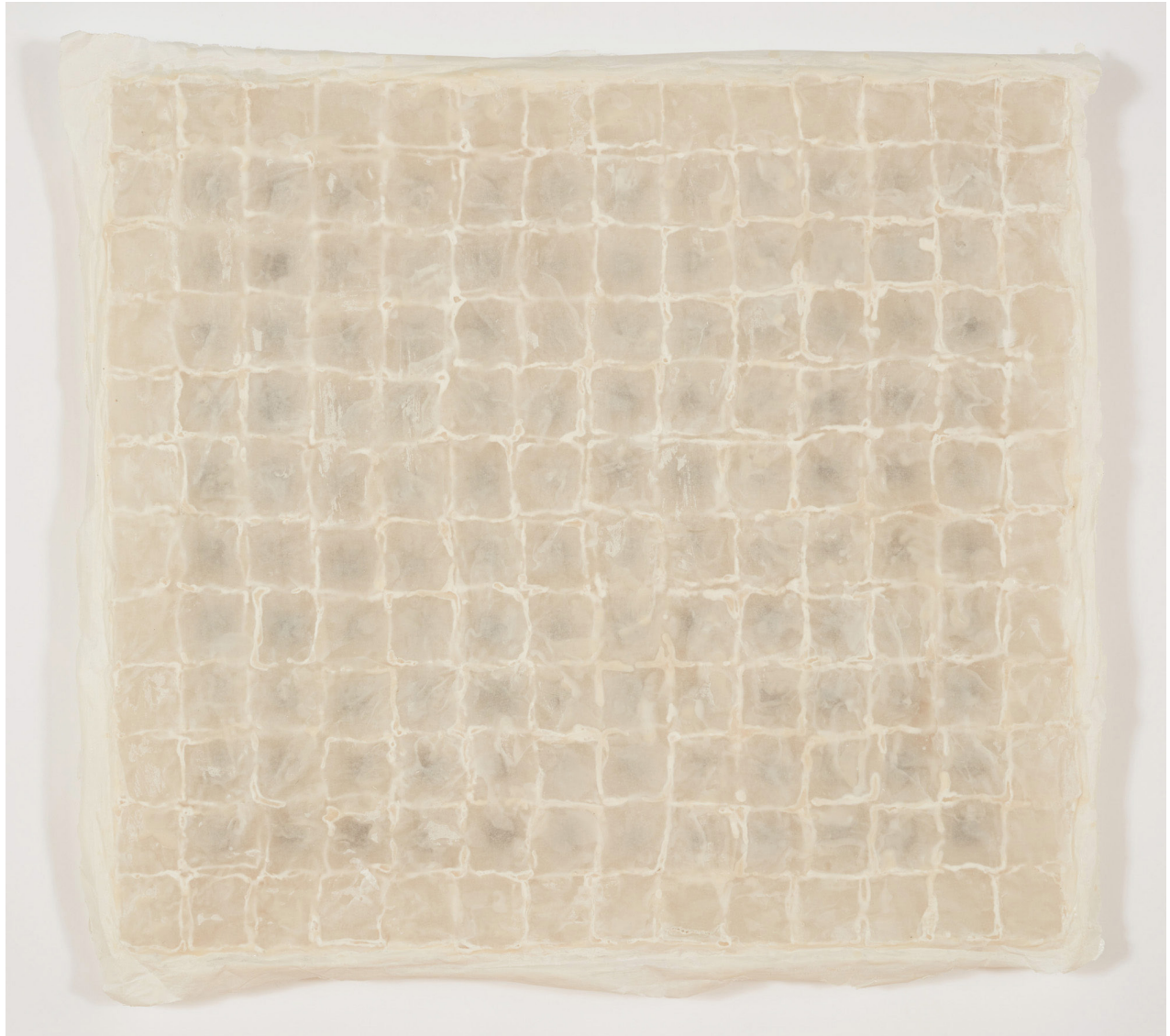


Flare
2020, Oil and Encaustic on paper on board
25 x 22.5 x 8 cm

\$900 framed

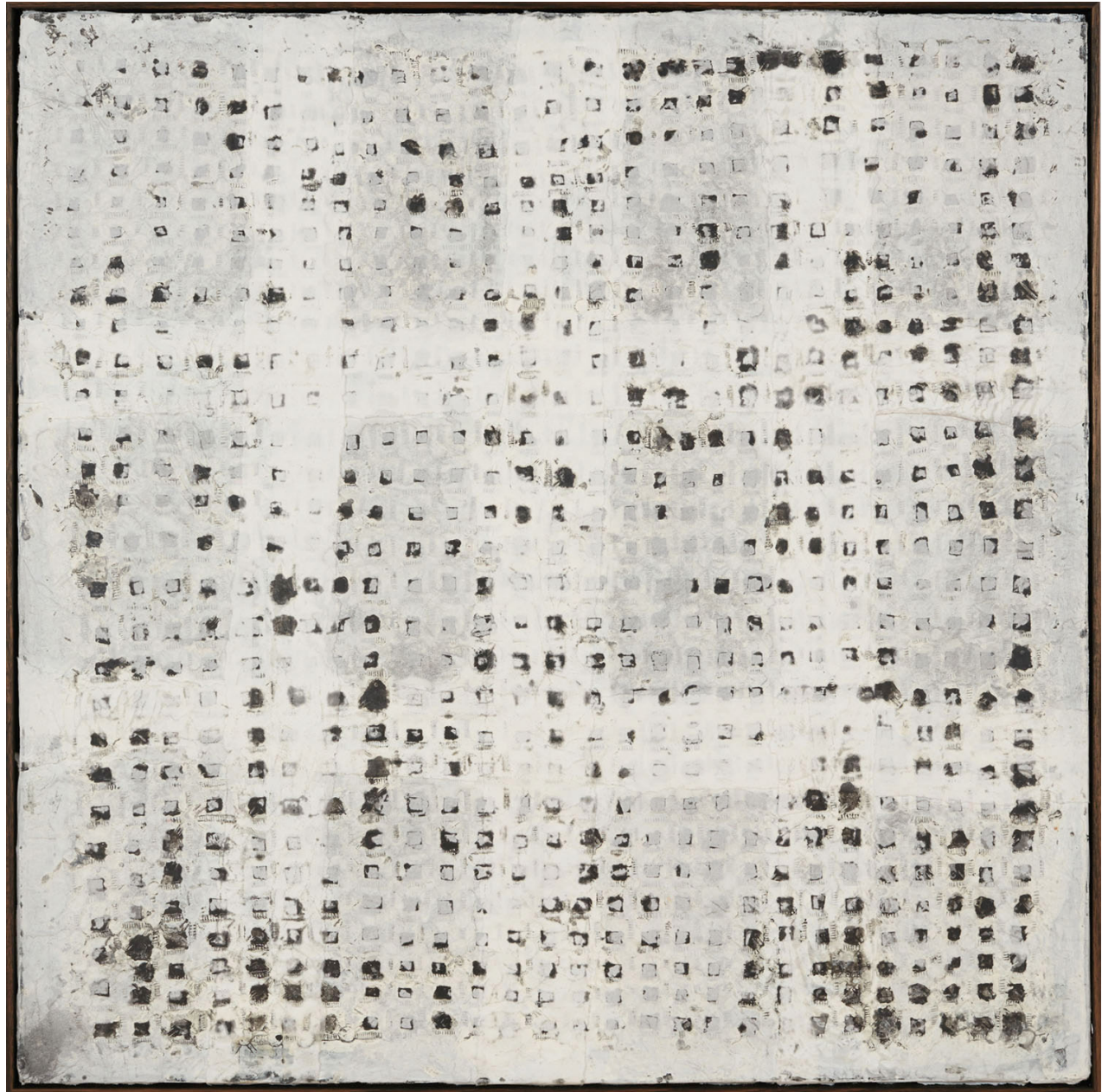
SOLD

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Forever is Composed of Now
2020, Oil and Encaustic on tracing paper on board
75 x 77 x 6 cm
\$2,800 unframed

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Instance
2020, Oil and Encaustic on paper on board
92 x 92 x 10 cm
\$2,600 framed

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Folly

2020, Oil and Encaustic on paper on wood
47 x 15 x 16 cm

\$1,100
SOLD

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Duration
2020, Oil on ripped paper on board
98 x 105 x 10 cm
\$4,400 framed
SOLD

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Duration
2020, Oil on ripped paper on board
98 x 105 x 10 cm
\$4,400 framed



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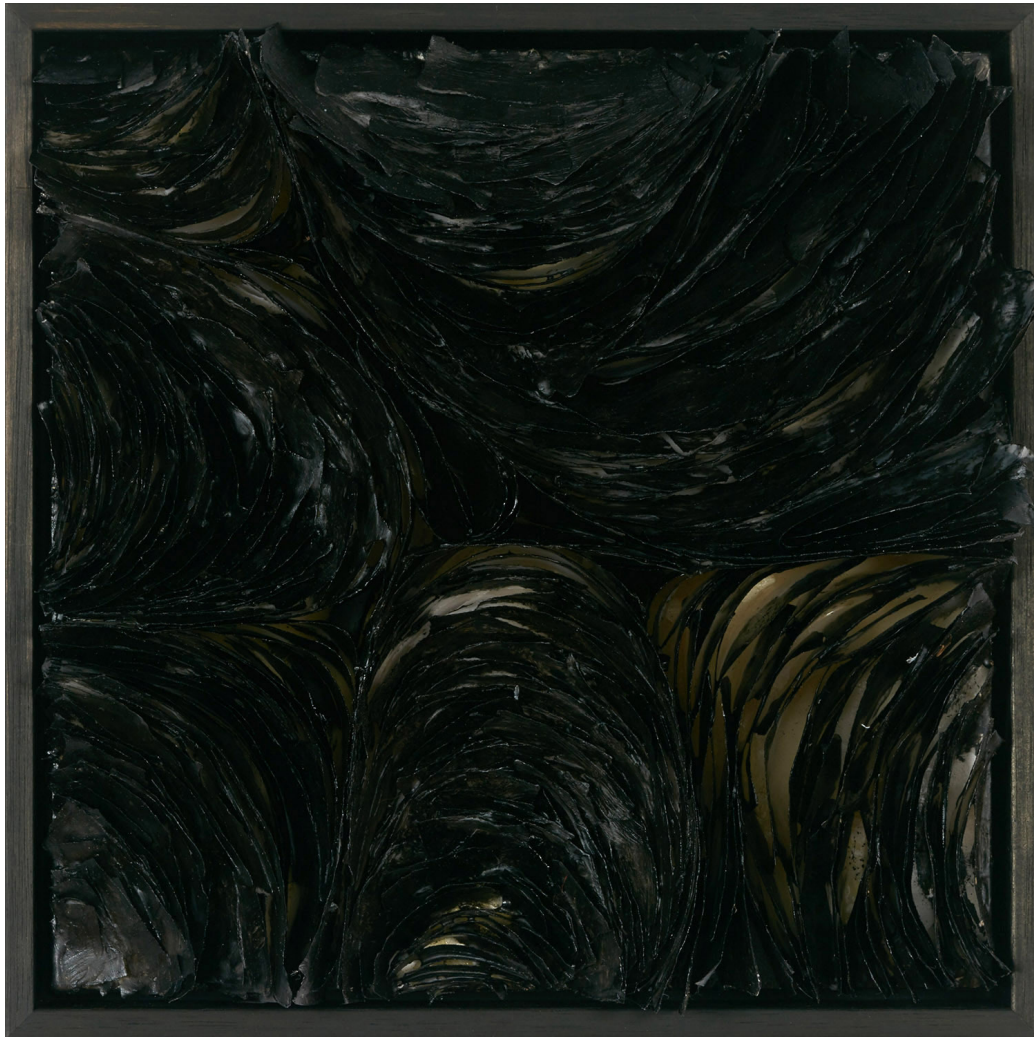


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Torn From the Morning
2020, Oil and Encaustic on tracing paper on board
75 x 67 x 5.5 cm
\$1,800 unframed

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Our Share of Night
2020, Oil and Encaustic on paper on board
22.5 x 22.5 x 8 cm
\$900 framed

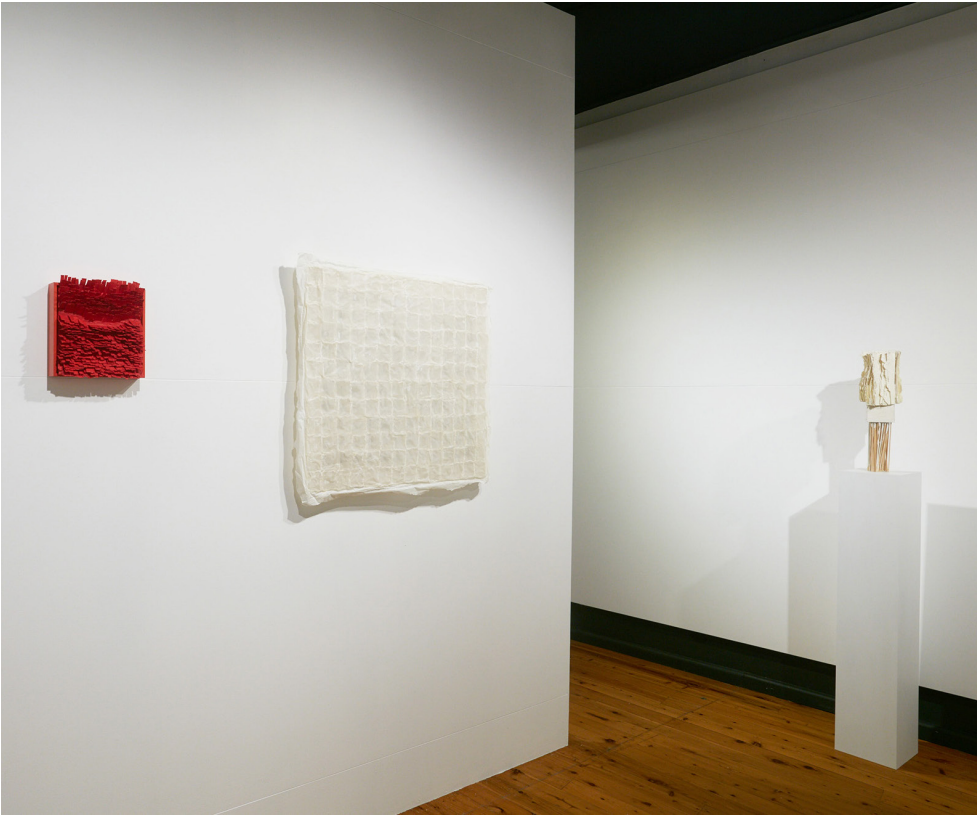
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The Slant of a Roof
2020, Oil and Encaustic on paper
28 x 18 x 11 cm

\$1,100
SOLD

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CV

Born 1956 Sydney, NSW Australia
Based in Bundeena, NSW Australia

EDUCATION

2004 Master of Fine Arts, Sydney College of Arts, Sydney University, Sydney, NSW
2002 Master of Arts, College of Fine Arts, NSW University, Sydney, NSW
1983 Diploma in Art Education, Sydney Teachers College, University of Sydney, NSW
1982 Graduate Diploma in Visual Communications, Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney University, Sydney, NSW

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019 *Regeneration*, The Egg & Dart, Thirroul, NSW
2018 *Finesse*, Shoalhaven Regional Gallery, Nowra, NSW
2017 *Flourish*, The Egg & Dart, Thirroul, NSW
2015 *Hybrids*, The Egg & Dart, Thirroul, NSW
2014 *Forage*, Bathurst Regional Gallery, Bathurst, NSW
Forage, Jean Bellele Gallery, Hill End, NSW
Forage, The Egg & Dart, Thirroul, NSW
Forage, Moran Gallery, Sylvania, NSW
2013 *New Works*, Kerrie Lowe Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2006 *Winter at Hill End*, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea, NSW

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018 *Mixed Bag*, The Egg & Dart, Thirroul, NSW
Postcard Show, Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton, NSW
2017 *Between The Sheets: Artist's Books*, Australian Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
Between The Sheets: Artist's Books, Gallery Central, Perth, WA
Sentiment, Ten Days on The Island Festival, Sawtooth, Launceston, TAS
The Sculpture Show, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea, NSW
Small Works, Big Impact, The Bundeena Art Trail Group Show,
The Broadhurst Gallery, Gymea, NSW
2016 *Op Art*, Brenda May Gallery, Sydney, NSW
The Egg & Dart on Excursion, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Casula, NSW
Drawn From Life, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea, NSW

2015 *Texture and Surface Sculpture Show*, Kerrie Lowe Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Paperworks III, Brenda May Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Paper and Glass, The Egg & Dart, Thirroul, NSW
2014 *Fractured Beauty*, Wollongong Regional Gallery, Wollongong, NSW
In Proximity, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea, NSW
2013 - 2018 *The Annual Egg & Dart Christmas Show*, The Egg & Dart, Thirroul, NSW
2013 *Revolution Beyond Books*, East Gippsland Regional Gallery, East Gippsland, VIC
Eternity Show, Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Gallery Group Show, Kerrie Lowe Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2012 *Teachers Show*, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea, NSW

SELECTED AWARDS

2020 *Ravenswood Women's Art prize (finalist)*, Ravenswood School, Gordon, NSW
2019 *Banyule Works on Paper Prize (finalist)*, Banyule regional gallery, Banyule, VIC
Art on Paper Award (finalist), Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea, NSW
NOW Contemporary Art Prize (finalist), Shoalhaven Regional Gallery, NSW
FLOW National Contemporary Watercolour Prize (finalist), Wollongong Gallery
Georges River Art Prize (finalist), Hurstville Museum and Gallery, NSW
Between The Sheets: Artist's Books, Australian Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
Between The Sheets: Artist's Books, Gallery Central, Perth, WA
Biblio Art Prize (finalist), Port Fairy, VIC
2018 *Fleurieu Art Prize (finalist)*, fleurieu Biennale, Fleurieu Peninsula, SA
Ravenswood Women's Art prize (finalist), Ravenswood School, Gordon,
Hidden, Rookwood Cemetary Sculpture Walk (finalist), Rookwood Cementary Reserve Trust, NSW
2017 *Paramor Prize (finalist)*, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Casula, NSW
North Sydney Art Prize (finalist), North Sydney Council, NSW
Art on Paper Award (finalist), Hazelhurst regional gallery, Gymea, NSW
2016 *Fortress, Rockdale Outdoor Gallery Art Prize (finalist)*, Rockdale Council, NSW
Gosford Art Prize (finalist), Gosford Regional Gallery, East Gosford, NSW

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- 2015 *Hutchins Work on Paper Prize (finalist)*, Hutchins School, Hobart, TAS
North Sydney Art Prize (finalist), North Sydney Council, NSW
- 2014 *Hidden*, Rookwood Cemetary Sculpture Walk (finalist), Rookwood Cementary Reserve Trust, Rookwood, NSW
- 2014 & 2016 *James Kiwi Watercolour Award*, Wollongong Regional Gallery, Wollongong, NSW
- 2013 *The Gallipoli Prize (finalist)*, Gallipoli Memorial Club, Sydney, NSW
North Sydney Art Prize (finalist), North Sydney Council, Sydney, NSW
- 2012 *The Waterhouse Natural Art Prize (finalist)*, South Australia Museum, Adelaide, SA
- 2012 & 2017 *Works on Paper Fischers Ghost Art Award (finalist)*, Campelltown Arts Centre, Campelltown, NSW
Rick Amor Drawing Prize (finalist), Ballarat Regional Gallery, Ballarat, VIC
Banyule Award Works on Paper (finalist), Banyule Regional Gallery, Banyule, VIC
- 2011 *Sculpture in the Vineyards (finalist)*, Hunter Valley, NSW
- 2011 & 2013 *Art on Paper Award (finalist)*, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gynea, NSW
- 2011 & 2012 *Hidden*, Rookwood Cemetary Sculpture Walk (finalist), Rookwood Cementary Reserve Trust, Rookwood, NSW
- 2005 *The Sulman Prize (finalist)*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
Muntz Albury Art Prize (finalist), and purchased by Albury Regional Gallery, Albury, NSW

RESIDENCIES, COLLECTIONS

- 2017 Artsbox Residency, Melbourne Maribynog Council, Melbourne, VIC
Wollongong City Gallery Permanent Collection, NSW
- 2015 Freemantle Art Residency, Freemantle Arts Centre, Freemantle, WA
- 2010 & 2013 Hill End Residencies Program, Bathurst Regional Gallery, Bathurst, NSW
- 2005 Atelier Four Winds, UNESCO Laureate International, France
- 2004 Artist in Residence, Bundanon Trust, Bundanon, NSW