



WENDY LOEFLER

Elsewhere

MEDIA RELEASE

Exhibition Dates: 16 May - 4 June 2017

28 Derby Street Collingwood VIC 3066 Open 7 days 10am to 6pm

'For years now Wendy Loeffler has made works of ambitious scale that respond to arid environments. The exhibition *Elsewhere* is ambitious not only in scale, but in the scope of its composition as a single work that fills the gallery space. Here we have twelve linked canvases, tailored to the specific proportions of the gallery, comprising a 360-degree view. In the digital era, we are offered many screen-mediated opportunities to be immersed within environments both banal and fantastic: video games, virtual reality, digital art installations or in the cinema with our 3D glasses. With *Elsewhere* Wendy returns stereoscopic vision to the virtuosity of the draftsman and the most modest of mediums: charcoal. Impressions of light and depth, of the infinite and the indefinite that the viewer might experience, are the consequence of simple marks that through some intuitive skill only a few of us possess, distil a vision of place.

The raw white of primed canvas in *Elsewhere* provides ambiguous material for the spatial imagination. These passages might be sand, dunes, sky, stark light, heated atmospheres or voids that are kilometres deep. Contours are rendered with a soft touch. In some areas, the horizon line seems to be irrelevant. The overall effect is of diffuse saturation. What is vacuous in material terms provokes an amplified idea of space. But Wendy's canvases also remind us that an apprehension of vastness also sensitizes the observer to what is close by. The sparse vegetation of the desert, while it cannot prevail over the horizontal plane, is nevertheless alive to the eye in its variety and crowds the foreground with detail in some canvases.

Wendy's works are about the diminution of human scale by many orders of magnitude, the hunkering fortitude of the desert flora, the story of time told by the aged bones of a solitary tree. Beyond this, they are subtly emotional landscapes that probe elemental questions about the tenuousness of human and non-human life. Wendy seems to be telling us that it is in these arid places, places which resist becoming the dominion of humans, that such questions can be explored'.

- Laura Fisher, 2017

Elsewhere is current until 4 June 2017.

For more details or images contact:

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