

TRISH
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GALLERY

VINCENT WARD | Palimpsest / Landscape
30 August – 23 September 2016



Palimpsest / Landforms 2, 2016
Video: 06:23 minutes
Edition of 5
\$8,500



Haiku – Ink, 2016
Video: 02:22 minutes
Edition of 7
\$3,500



Palimpsest / Landforms 3, 2016
Video: 06:23 minutes
Edition of 5
\$8,500



Palimpsest / Landforms 1, 2016
Video: 06:23 minutes
Edition of 5
\$8,500



New Words Under The Old, 2016
Video: 02:52 minutes
Edition of 7
\$5,000



New Words Under The Old 2, 2016
Archival pigment print
800 x 1000mm (unframed)
Edition of 7
\$6,500



Palimpsest / Landform 1, 2016
Archival pigment print
800 x 1000mm (unframed)
Edition of 7
\$6,500



Palimpsest / Landform 2, 2016
Archival pigment print
800 x 1000mm (unframed)
Edition of 7
\$6,500

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Arts writer Anthony Byrt has written: *'Ward has never shied away from the truth: he digs and digs until he gets somewhere other filmmakers and artists don't often visit: a psychic space where violence, memory, myth, sex and religion mingle in a landscape scarred by history.'*

Palimpsest / Landscapes 1,2 and 3 are three films that together mark a significant development in Vincent Ward's approach to painting, drawing, the human body and landscape. Drawing directly onto living forms, Ward has the body mimic hillsides and valleys, lush caves and dry mountainous earthquake zones. Suspension of disbelief is aided by an ambient soundscape developed in concert with the imagery, at once speaking of physical transformation and charged psychology, an extended meditation on the New Zealand landscape that helped shape Ward. He wanted to 'with ink, paint and pigments, bathe the human form directly, then breath on it with the elements, of wind, dust, rain and fog. It continued a range of experiments that I had been making where paint meets film, but rather than motion painting on film, it could be painting / filming on a new landscape, our bodies, male and female, ephemeral as the elemental world we live in, and as harsh and varied as the hill country I experienced as a child.'

Ward's fascination with the possibilities of landscape is rooted in his childhood experiences of rural life in New Zealand, following family generations in farming on his father's side, his mother a Jewish refugee who fled Germany. Ward's deep understanding of the primal force of the land was burnished by the physicality of the work required to tame the hill country farm: his father, burned and scarred in the war, would 'cut and burn and hew and dig and fence and sew grass. The seemingly endless flesh grafts to his body, from one part to another, creating smoothness in one place by leaving a hollow with a ragged scar line in another, was contrasted by perfectly straight fence lines that he dug and wired on seemingly impossible, hill and cliff edge terrain, they were like straight lines arcing across an almost human landscape creating for a time order, and form, and a boundary, a sort of sanctuary for my mother and us.'

Ward's films have received international acclaim at both the Academy Awards and the Cannes Film Festival; in 2007 he received the New Zealand Order of Merit (NZOM) for his services to film; a guest professorship at the China Academy of Art, School of Fine Arts, Hanzhou, has more recently been conferred on Ward, and he also runs workshops on new media at Shanghai University, School of Fine Arts. Ward is Adjunct Professor at the University of Canterbury where he was recently awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts, the same university where he first studied art and completed a Dip FA (Hons) in 1978. He has been exhibiting widely since 2012. Ward lives and works in Auckland, New Zealand.

THE ARTIST WISHES TO THANK:

Trish Clark

Dancers: Georgie Goater, Tallulah Holly-Massey and Peipei

Assistant: Svet Mateev / Editor: John McWilliam

Sound Designers: Nick Buckton, Murray Fisher / Sound Facility: Native Audio

China Consultant: Jennie Hu / Music: Peter van der Fluit

Calligraphy: Wang Dongling / Support and Facility: Owens

Printing: John Shroeder Rainer Weston /

Alison Carter, Emma Mortimer, Lani Feltham, Corbin Beitelstein

George Rose, Yvette Thomas, Kristin Hatland, Megan Adams, Stephanie Lendich.

Peter Houston, Jos Wheeler, Adrian Malloch, Ben Roswell, Shayne Radford

Shanghai University school of Fine Arts: Jin Jiangbo, Wang Dawei