



JANE TRENGOVE

Breathing

2007

Painting Element Series: Composition

Art has been defined as the human effort to imitate, supplement, alter, or counteract the work of nature. It is also described as the conscious production or arrangement of sounds, colors, forms, movements, or other elements. This exhibition is part of a series of installations and collaborations called *Painting Element* which reflect on the simple procedures of painting and take one formal element as the starting point applying it to larger concepts in social or art contexts. The work created for *Breathing* is a response to the dramatic environmental and political climate of the last two years.

The first exhibition in the *Painting Element* series was produced in 2005 and was concerned with a cultural interpretation of landscape linked to colour as the base element. The following is an excerpt from the exhibition catalogue:

Our connection to landscape is highly subjective and is in a constant state of flux. There can be no attachment to a particular time or culturally unified position. Instead, we experience a romanticised notion that demonstrates lost ground, transience and the elusive nature of our understanding of "place" and its relevance to contemporary urban dwellers.

Jane Trengove, September, 2005 .

In 2005 turning on a tap and pouring water was already becoming an action which required some consideration. In 2007, one avoids doing so at all. The composition of things is uncertain, no longer can we trust in the substances upon which we depend such as air and water. What impact does this have on our sense of causal effectiveness as individuals?

Building on the earlier work and the relationship between our interpretation of landscape and the broader environment, these new paintings represent the ambiguity of reality and abstraction. The arrangement of the paintings implies a narrative reading of claustrophobic contemplations where a sense of interior dwelling and the external environment are dislocated.

Jane Trengove, June 2007.