

ANDREW BROWNE

PURLIEUS

14 September – 9 October 2011

MARTIN BROWNE CONTEMPORARY

15-21 HAMPDEN STREET PADDINGTON NSW 2021 TEL: 02 9331 7997 FAX: 02 9331 7050
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GALLERY HOURS: TUESDAY - SUNDAY 11AM - 6PM

Cover Image: Culvert #1 (after Courbet and Wall), 2011, oil on linen, 175 x 262 cm

ANDREW BROWNE *PURLIEUS*

* Purlieus: environs, outskirts, hangouts, one's haunts...

Nature on the fringe of the city is the subject of this recent work. Creepers overwhelming their hosts, trees in various states of decrepitude or marked for removal, culverts and river banks strangely illuminated – each giving rise to a weird and uncanny beauty. Revisiting various familiar sites and objects that have continued to engage me over a number of years (my purlieus), I seek to evoke both a psychologically charged and surreal dimension, and a specific (albeit manipulated) response to the formal qualities of the subjects.

An ongoing dialogue with art history posits interesting and surprising resonances and recognitions for me - for instance: Northern Renaissance painters concerns with humanity and nature via a fraught and gothic sensibility...the realists and impressionists' radical and direct engagement with subject matter...and the troubled (neurotic?) and critical modernist and contemporary take on the landscape through quasi-documentary photography and activism.

In a past piece of writing about my work Jonathon Nichols identified beauty and its recognition as a melancholy of sorts. Returning to beauty through the melancholy of the silent observer, these paintings are evidence of that witnessing.

Andrew Browne, August 2011

LIST OF WORKS

Images in spread order (left to right/top to bottom):

Down by the river, 2011, oil on linen, 175 x 262 cm

Washington study #1 (gray), 2011, oil on linen, 81 x 101 cm

Creepers and host #1 (Studley Park), 2011, oil on linen, 101 x 81 cm

Washington study #4 (with lights), 2011, oil on linen, 75 x 191 cm

Washington study #3, 2011, oil on linen, 75 x 198.5 cm

Near Kyneton, 2011, oil on linen, 122 x 336 cm

Study - marked trunk, 2011, oil on linen, 51 x 41 cm

Study - Time, 2011, oil on linen, 51 x 41 cm

Study - birch, 2011, oil on linen, 51 x 41 cm

Study - Stumpy, 2011, oil on linen, 51 x 41 cm

Creepers and host #2 (Studley Park), 2011, oil on linen, 101 x 81 cm

Washington study #2 (black), 2011, oil on linen, 101 x 81 cm

Yarra Bend (dusk), 2011, oil on linen, 175 x 262 cm

Stumpy (final), 2011, oil on linen, 120 x 89 cm

Deflated, 2011, oil on linen, 120 x 89 cm



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