

Andrew Browne

GLIMPSE

'Glimpse' - a series of new paintings by Andrew Browne that collide deep landscape space, refulgent light and complex organic form. Developed from a large and ongoing archive of photographic references, caught most often during travel both here and overseas, these oil paintings 'collage' or perhaps more accurately knit together happenstance images to form new realities. Tangles of scrub, suggestive and hovering ghostly branches, abstracted built form and an enlivening luminous atmosphere suggest the everyday, yet are also fictions, evocatively surreal in mood that the artist has referred to as an 'accumulation of glimpses'.

In recent years Browne's drawings, prints and paintings have drilled down on the character and form of static details within the landscape, prompting Andrew Sayers in a recent essay to note "...the artist creates a central focus, an 'eye' if you like...so we see motifs isolated from their surroundings..." That work was about ordering the minutia of the peripheral environment and finding delight in teasing out anthropomorphic and suggestive detail, yet these new paintings now pull back from the specific and regard the greater landscape as a dynamic and abstracted arena of movement and transition where detail is just one element of a more formal space, evoking the happily disorientating effects of travel and dislocation.

In 1960 Willem DeKooning talked of 'content as a glimpse', the glimpse as one crucial way of encountering and ordering the world and an aid to transforming visual sensations into art. Though Browne's works differ dramatically to the American's abstraction and instead appear decidedly (but not photo) realist, he is similarly intent on exploring an accumulation of sensation, creating a series of slippages from one element to the next, ultimately cohering into a seamless whole.
