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RICK LEWIS: Wind Against Tide

solo exhibition | 22 nov - 31 dec 2012

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RICK LEWIS

Wind Against Tide

This PDF Booklet is published on the occasion of
Rick Lewis Solo Exhibition at Sin Sin Fine Art,
Wind Against Tide | 22 Nov - 31 Dec 2012.

Cover Image:
Close Up from Silver Lake IV
enamel, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper laid
on canvas, 101 x 73 cm
2012 ©Rick Lewis

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Close up from Silver Lake XXVIII, oil, smoke, powdered pigment, graphite on paper, 61 x 48 cm, 2012

Wind Against Tide

by Cora Fisher

Palimpsest: from the Greek, "to scrape away again"; to avail to new marks and an eventual history of marks; a composite surface where what was erased still comes through from below.

Wind Against Tide, a show of recent works by American painter Rick Lewis at Sin Sin Fine Art features three series that build on the artist's vernacular abstraction from nature: Silver Lake; Reflection; and Untitled, a group of works on paper.

Through an editorial process of layering and scraping back paint, soil, and loose pigment, Lewis's paintings are palimpsests, or memory records. Through the interplay of surface and ground, Lewis shapes layers of paint to recall environments once experienced. The physical intelligence of these palimpsest surfaces is remarkable. In his series, Reflection, Lewis sets the absorptive qualities of brown pigment and earth against the mercurial qualities of silver. Brown comes through silver, at times like a bloom of tarnish, at other times with the grit and tooth of soil. "Surface and ground" takes on a double meaning, applying in equal measure to interactions between paint layers on a canvas as to the movements of natural elements, like sand and water at the tide's edge. The paintings that result are as close to creating a direct, equivalent experience of their source as one can achieve in the medium.

Artist Statement

by Rick Lewis

My work is born out of a direct connection to places that I have been. Some locations have a magical or mystical quality about them that seems to connect up with my own psyche. My artistic process involves experiencing the area many times, photographing, taking notes, making sketches, recording audio, writing, and sometimes creating music if the place lends itself to that. I return to the studio and sift through the source material I collected, keeping the things that are relevant and setting the rest aside.

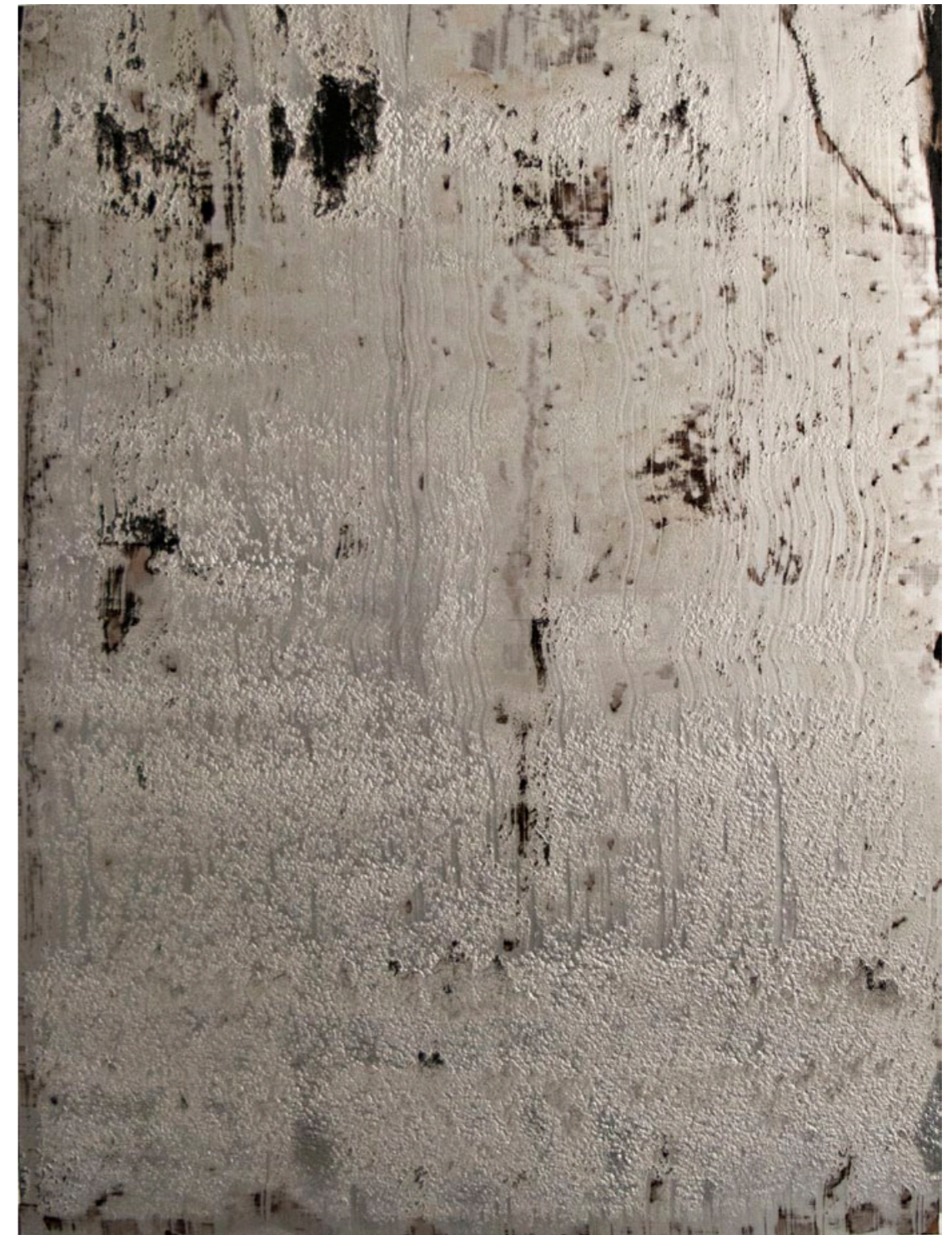
Starting a painting begins with a general idea, but I never really know from one piece to the next what may happen along the way. Throughout the process events occur that direct the work. Imagery seems to make itself known. There may have been a particular memory of a texture on a tree, a reflection in the water, color of the shoreline, a peculiar sound that I have never heard, a communion with spirit (be it God, the Great Spirit, Buddha etc. or whatever one may wish to call it), a smell that recalls a specific memory and so on. My artistic life is by no means linear, and space/time contained in the work is not that way either. For me painting is governed by some things that are known and some that are not. Intellectual decisions occur but there are factors that cannot be predicted. For example in nature we understand some things about the wind and tide. Scientifically we know why these phenomena happen. We can approximate their direction and time, we can somewhat understand their relationship, but we are not always sure of the certainty of their effect.

As far as my technique or process goes I usually begin by selecting the support for a certain quality. Be it smooth, slightly toothed, ragged, 'found' or what not and begin by manipulating the surface

with sandpaper, scrapers, razors, sticks, rocks, sand etc. Then I will lay a ground of either acrylic or oil based enamel, sometimes coating the entire surface, at other times laying out a loosely designed grid. While the ground is curing I trowel a layer of acrylic or resin based medium that is pre-tinted with an added dry pigment color, sand, earth etc. I let that set in for several days and then come back with a mixture of heavy plastic asphalt. The asphalt is laid on in a very spontaneous fashion while covering many pieces at a time. I don't really think too much about what I am doing at this stage. It is just a very intuitive response to materials and the process. Then all the collective pieces will be pinned or hung on the wall and laid out on the floor for me to live with over the next few days while I review notes. A very strange and wonderful thing begins to take place. A dialogue begins to develop between the notes, sketches, writings, audio, my own thinking and the grounds that I have prepared. Finally I just start going through each one of the works. Drawing and painting back into them. Letting each piece tell me what it needs to get along. Then it is just a matter of working and living with them over the next few months or even years sometimes. They stop at interesting places. I put them away. I bring them back out. Then they leave or are filed away, and I don't really think about them much after this. I think it is this method of working that keeps me grounded and aware of my senses, and once it is over I have grown, the work has grown and then I am off to the next thing.



Silver Lake I
enamel, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper laid on canvas
101 X 73 cm
2012



Silver Lake II
enamel, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper laid on canvas
101 X 73 cm
2012



Silver Lake III
enamel, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper laid on canvas
101 X 73 cm
2012



Silver Lake IV
enamel, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper laid on canvas
101 X 73 cm
2012



Silver Lake X
enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XI
enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XII
enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XIII
enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XIV

enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XV

enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XVI
enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XVII
enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XIX
enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XX
enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XXI
enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XXIV
enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XXIII
enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XXVI
enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XXV
enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XXII
enamel, aluminum powder, bitumen, smoke, graphite on paper
73.5 X 58.5 cm
2012



Silver Lake XXVII
oil, smoke, powdered pigment, graphite on paper
61 X 48 cm
2012



Silver Lake XXVIII
oil, smoke, powdered pigment, graphite on paper
61 X 48 cm
2012



Untitled I
oil, asphaltum, marble dust, powdered pigment, graphite on paper
28 X 23 cm
2012



Untitled II
oil, asphaltum, marble dust, powdered pigment, graphite on paper
28 X 23 cm
2012



Untitled III
oil, asphaltum, marble dust, powdered pigment, graphite on paper
28 X 23 cm
2012



Untitled IV
oil, asphaltum, marble dust, powdered pigment, graphite on paper
28 X 23 cm
2012



Untitled VI
oil, asphaltum, marble dust, powdered pigment, graphite on paper
28 X 23 cm
2012



Untitled VII
oil, asphaltum, marble dust, powdered pigment, graphite on paper
28 X 23 cm
2012



Reflection X
Mixed Media on Canvas
50.5 X 41 cm
2012



Reflection XI
aluminum paint, asphalt, burlap, graphite powder on canvas
50.5 X 41 cm
2012



Reflection XII
aluminum paint, asphalt, burlap, graphite powder on canvas
50.5 X 41 cm
2012



Reflection XIII
aluminum paint, asphalt, burlap, graphite powder on canvas
50.5 X 41 cm
2012



Reflection IV
aluminum paint, asphalt, burlap, graphite powder on canvas
50.5 X 41 cm
2012



Reflection XV
aluminum paint, asphalt, burlap, graphite powder on canvas
50.5 X 41 cm
2012



Reflection XX
aluminum paint, asphalt, burlap, graphite powder on canvas
35.5 X 28 cm
2012



Reflection XXI
aluminum paint, asphalt, burlap, graphite powder on canvas
35.5 X 28 cm
2012



Reflection XXII
aluminum paint, asphalt, burlap, graphite powder on canvas
35.5 X 28 cm
2012



Reflection XXIII
aluminum paint, asphalt, burlap, graphite powder on canvas
35.5 X 28 cm
2012

ARTIST CV

RICK LEWIS

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Brooklyn, NY 11215
917-860-0980
rwl_nyc@hotmail.com

BORN

Lumberton, Texas, 1965

EDUCATION

M.F.A., Painting and Drawing, University of North Texas
Denton, Texas, 1992

B.S., Graphic Design, Lamar University
Beaumont, Texas, 1988

AWARDS

2009 Millay Colony, Artist in Residency, Austerlitz, New York
2003 Edward F. Albee Foundation, Artist in Residency, Montauk, New York
2002 Purnati Center for the Arts, Artist in Residency, Bali, Indonesia
2000 Edward F. Albee Foundation, Artist in Residency, Montauk, New York
1990 Carol Cook Foundation Award for Excellence in Painting

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Edward F. Albee Foundation, New York, USA
Bali Purnati Center for the Arts, Bali, Indonesia
Brown & O'Toole, New York, USA
Coffee America, Inc., New York, New York
Deloitte & Touche, Dallas, Texas
Plus One Holdings, Inc., New York, New York
United Airlines, Washington Dulles International Airport, USA
University Gallery, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, USA
Dishman Gallery, Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas, USA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2012 "Wind Against Tide", Sin Sin Fine Art Ltd., Hong Kong
2012 "Spring Close", Steven Amedee Fine Art, New York
2011 "Sollie's Wood", Steven Amedee Fine Art, New York
2009 "Poems for Oshun", Steven Amedee Fine Art, New York, USA
2008 "Deluge", Sin Sin Fine Art Ltd., Mid Levels, Hong Kong
2007 "Rick Lewis – New Paintings (Swehla)", Steven Amadee Fine Art, New York, USA
2006 "Rick Lewis - Works on Paper", Steven Amadee Fine Art, New York, USA
"Jalan", Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong
2005 Steven Amadee Fine Art, New York, USA
2004 Steven Amadee Fine Art, New York, USA
2003 Hooks-Epstein Galleries, Inc., Houston, Texas, USA
2001 Hooks-Epstein Galleries, Inc., Houston, Texas, USA
1997 Hooks-Epstein Galleries, Inc., Houston, Texas, USA
1995 Kristy Stubbs Gallery, Dallas, Texas, USA
1992 Cora Stafford Gallery, Denton, Texas, USA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2011 "Alexis Granwell and Rick Lewis", Mount Airy Contemporary, Philadelphia, PA
2010 "Alight", Sin Sin Fine Art Ltd., Mid Levels, Hong Kong
"Danny Camino and Rick Lewis", Steven Amedee Fine Art, New York
"A Celebration of Life", Dishman Art Museum, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX
2009 "Reach for the HeART", Sin Sin Fine Art Ltd., Mid Levels, Hong Kong
2009 "from 2D to 3D", Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong
2008 "Tribes", Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong
2007 "40 Plus, 40 Minus", Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong
2006 "Art Saturdays", Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong
"Prints - Limited Editions and Monotypes", Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong
2004 "Portrayal of Place," Re:place Gallery, New York, USA
2003 "Miniatures", Hooks-Epstein Galleries, Inc., Houston, Texas, USA
2002 "Group Show", Galerie-Martini, Central, Hong Kong
2001 "The Box", Hooks-Epstein Galleries, Inc., Houston, Texas, USA
2000 "Bump in the Night", Mary Delahoyd Gallery, New York, USA
"New York Collects", Albright-Knox Museum, Buffalo, New York, USA
1999 "Six at Kouros", Kouros Gallery, New York, New York, USA
1998 "The Figure and the Chair", Hooks-Epstein Galleries, Inc., Houston, Texas, USA
1997 "Classically Inspired", Hooks-Epstein Galleries, Inc., Houston, Texas, USA
1996 "Art As Symbol", Millennium Gallery, East Hampton, New York, USA
1995 McKinney Avenue Museum of Contemporary Art, Dallas, Texas, USA
Kristy Stubbs Gallery, Dallas, Texas, USA
1992 "The Voertman Show", University Gallery, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas



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