

Ben Quilty

New Works

4 May – 22 May 2010

The centrepiece of Ben Quilty's forthcoming exhibition is a large Rorschached image of feminist Germaine Greer. Quilty recently spent time with Greer while photographing and drawing her for his 2010 Archibald entry. One half of the work is hidden beneath dense, black lines, concealing the faintest hint of a human skull. While some would read this as Greer contemplating her own death, Quilty believes she is contemplating the 'death of humanity'.

An avid environmentalist, Greer's preoccupation with the flora and fauna on her Queensland property, piqued Quilty's interest in his own environment around the Southern Highlands of New South Wales, and more specifically, Belmore Falls which are close to his home.

"I've often seen them as a place of both beauty and sadness, Belmore falls has been the site of many suicides over the years – the earliest rumoured to be over 120 years ago. The works are dark and brooding, but still beautiful."

Ben Quilty - 2010

While the landscapes make up the majority of the exhibition, uncharacteristically they are works on paper rather than thick, impasto oils. Avid followers of his work practice will be happy to learn that the landscapes are often populated by a car – an iconic subject in Quilty's work.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Quilty was already a regular exhibitor prior to completing Bachelor degrees in both Visual Arts and Design at Sydney University. His work continues to draw critical acclaim with regular and highly successful solo exhibitions in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

Quilty has completed residencies in several Australian centres, as well as in Paris as the winner of the Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship, and with the assistance of the Australia Council, in the Barcelona Studio Residency in Spain. He has been a finalist in the prestigious Wynne and Archibald prizes. His work is held in the collections of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney, Queensland University of Technology Art Collection, and numerous corporate and private collections.