



SELECTED ARTWORKS BY STEVE LOPES

VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Steve Lopes' paintings luxuriate in the detail of textures and colour that he sees around him in the world. At the same time, they have an uncanny, otherworldly quality with a literary and metaphysical tenor that is at once both highly artificial, yet grounded in the real. In his highly structured and considered compositions Lopes expresses his affinity for paint, and a strong desire to express human experience. Enormously diverse in imagery and content, his work is above all a celebration of the enduring spirit of humanity and the power of connection.

Lopes grew up in Sydney to parents who migrated from the Aeolian islands, a small rocky archipelago north of Sicily, before he was born. Like many children of immigrants he always felt his experience of the world was suspended between two places - Australia with its short white history and ancient Indigenous one, and the rich western traditions of his family's Italian ancestry and his training as a painter. As an adult he moves freely between city and country, Australia and the wider world. He is a seeker, an observer, and above all, a storyteller.

After undertaking formal training at the City Art Institute, Paddington, Lopes studied in the US and UK, interspersing his studies with travel to New York and Europe where he combined visits to the great museums and art centres, and visited the islands of his parents' birth. Today he works between his Sydney studio and a cottage in the NSW central west, as well as undertaking local and international residencies. In every place he finds rich material for his work – from landscape to those individuals who he gets to meet and know.

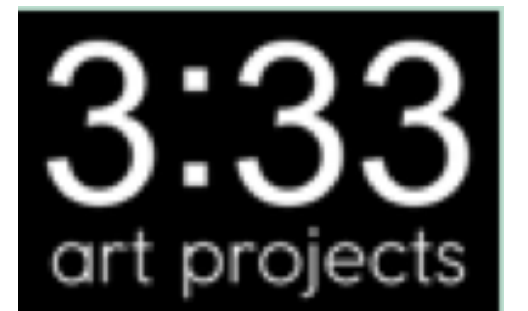
Lopes' artistic influences are diverse – from Australia's Kevin Connor and Britain's Frank Auerbach to South Africa's Pieter Hugo, from Goya and the early Renaissance Italian masters to Chicago's Leon Golub. His studies in the early 1990s at the New York Art Students League, which has a focus on the figurative and an international student cohort, liberated his approach to his work, loosening any ties to a national school of art, a pull he had felt strongly in Australia - to a more international and individual, outlook.

He rarely sets himself a project, preferring to respond to what is before him without a preconceived theme; connections within a body of work are incidental, rather than forced. This becomes clear when seeing a group of his work together – they vary from straight landscapes to complex tableaux incorporating landscape, figures and objects, rich with metaphor and ambiguity. The plein air landscapes have a painterly, expressive quality that is informed by a direct and emotional response to the subject, and the challenge of reacting to swiftly changing conditions of weather and light. While these landscapes are often an ends unto themselves, they also inform the artist's studio practice, providing a context for the play of characters within a work and embodying the weight of history and human experience within nature.

In contrast, Lopes' figurative paintings are carefully considered with a collaged-together quality that feels studio-bound, although the characters and objects painted within them all come from direct encounters – subjects known to the artist, or places and situations which he has experienced directly. There is an intensely psychological undercurrent to these works where meaning is hinted at but never made explicit, the suggestion of a parable that goes beyond the moment to a meaning of more timeless significance. Both artist and viewer become observers, somewhat detached, from a scenario that seems both close, yet also universal. Surrounded by objects or within a particular constructed or natural landscape, analogy and metaphor are offered up for the viewer's interpretation as part of a narrative flow. Steve Lopes' urge to tell stories is infinite, and continues to promise a fertile source for art of enormous diversity and abundance.

- Anne Ryan, Curator, Australian Art at The Art Gallery of NSW

Steve Lopes is represented by Stella Downer Fine Art, Mitchell Fine Art and Queenscliff Galleries



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Available works are subject to change, including prices and availability. All prices include GST.



Scrap Peddler
2011
Oil on canvas
110 x 100 cm
\$6,900



The Nek, Foxhole
2015
Oil on canvas
180 x 130 cm
\$14,000



Solarch Figure
2012
Oil on canvas
78 x 130 cm
\$8,800



The Late Riser

2016

Oil on canvas

110 x 120 cm

\$7,500



Self Portrait, Peaks and Valleys

2017

Oil on canvas

110 x 130 cm

\$8,800



Mountain Pass
2017
Oil on board
38 x 47 cm
\$2,800



Shaw Island View
2022
Oil on canvas
90 x 90 cm
\$5,500



Ocean Park View
2015
Oil on canvas
110 x 120 cm
\$6,900



Man O' War, Beach
2013
Oil on canvas
45 x 45 cm
\$2,200



Plantation
2014
Oil on board
50 x 50 cm
\$3,300



Landing View, Russell's Top
2014
Oil on board
45 x 45 cm
\$3,000



The Arch
2018
Oil on board
38 x 48 cm
\$2,400



Lament Singer – Paris
2017
Diptych
Oil on board
30 x 50 cm
\$2,900



Ex Nihilo
2007
Oil on canvas
180 x 90 cm
\$12,000



Ampitheatre Figure
2006
Oil on canvas
80 x 50 cm
\$4,200



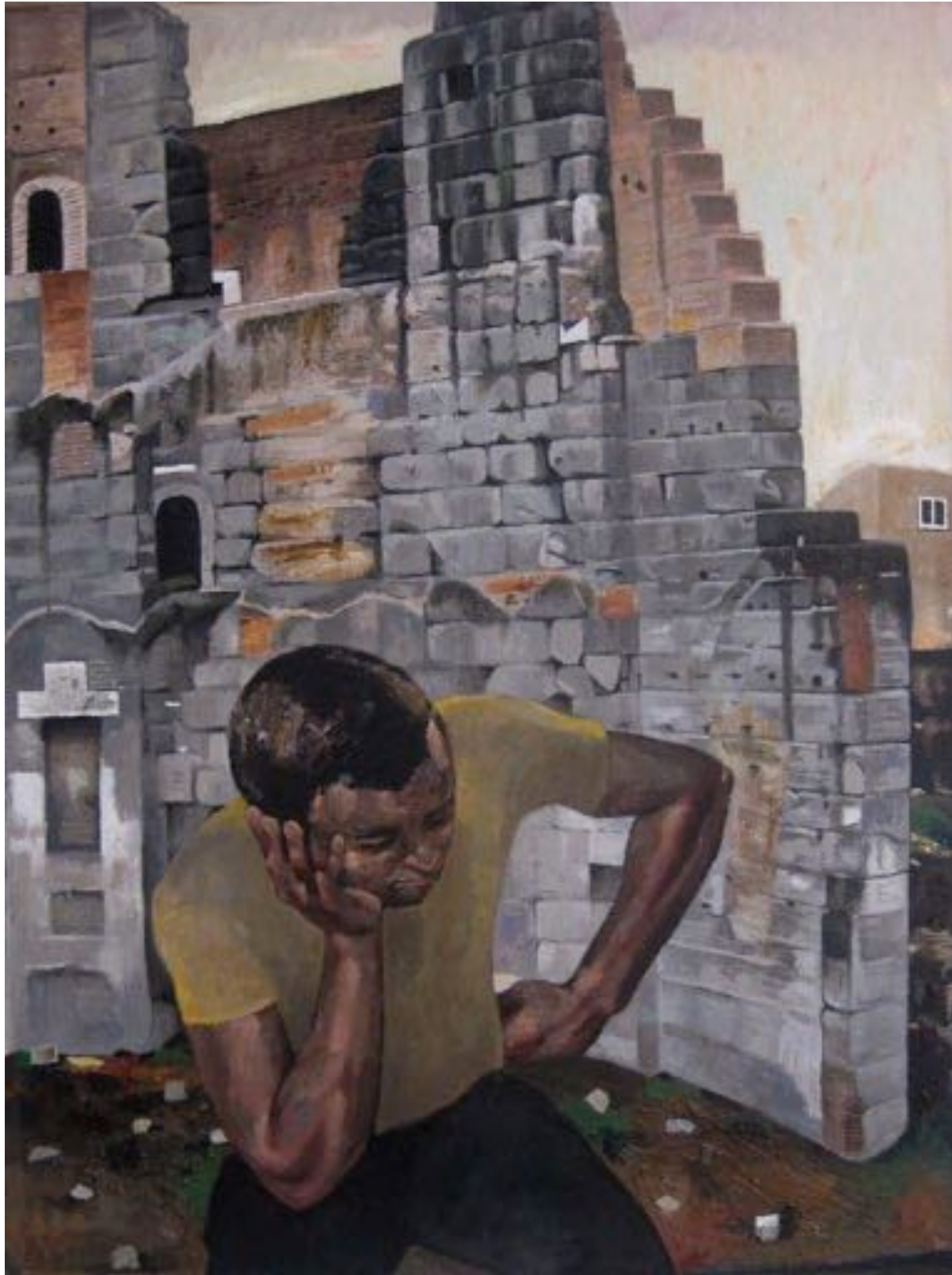
St Nicholas Church, Ayrshire

2012

Oil on canvas

40 x 50 cm

\$2,800



Structure Figure, Rome
2016
Oil on canvas
80 x 60 cm
\$4,900



Rainforest Study II

2019

Oil on canvas

110 x 110 cm

\$6,000



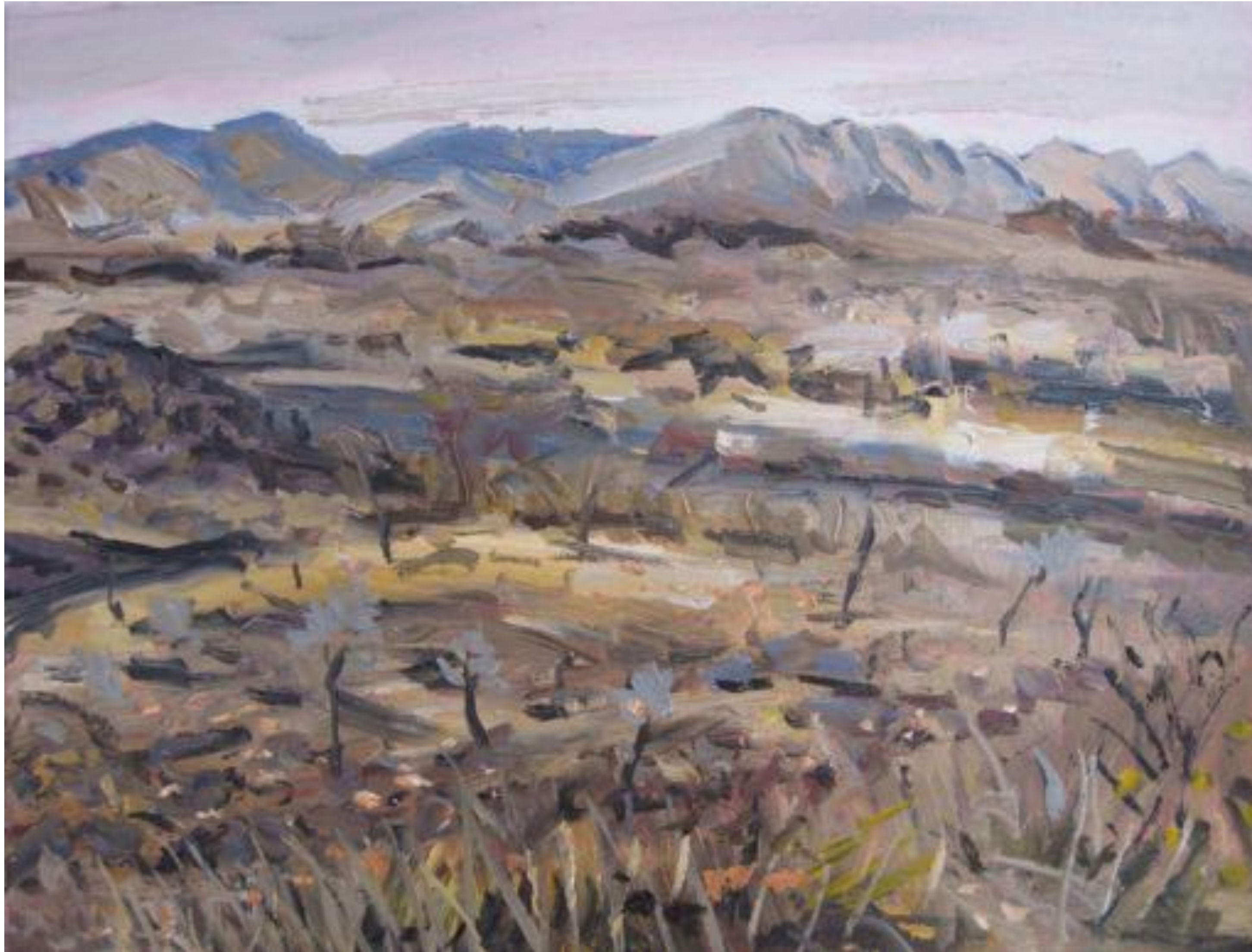
Metalescant
2012
Diptych
Oil on board
30 x 90 cm
\$3,500



Untitled Figure – Paris
2009
Oil on canvas
95 x 60 cm
\$5,500



Figure and Farmhouse
2014
Oil on board
40 x 50 cm
\$2,600



Larrapinta Trail, NT

2010

Oil on canvas

30 x 40 cm

\$2,600



Ex Nihilo Figure and Landscape
2007
Oil on board
38 x 67 cm
\$3,000



Big Bill's Camp #1
2017
Oil on board
40 x 50 cm
\$2,600



Pandanus Study

2014

Oil on canvas

30 x 30 cm

\$1,900



Temple of Faustina
2016
Oil on canvas
100 x 100 cm
\$5,500



Hot Potato Study
2014
Oil on canvas
70 x 80 cm
\$4,500



Hardware
2014
Oil on canvas
80 x 60 cm
\$3,300



Coast View and Rainforest
2017
Oil on board
45 x 45 cm
\$2,800



Inland View
2013
Oil on canvas
90 x 90 cm
\$4,000



Bundanon Landscape
2006
Oil on canvas
50 x 80 cm
\$3,900



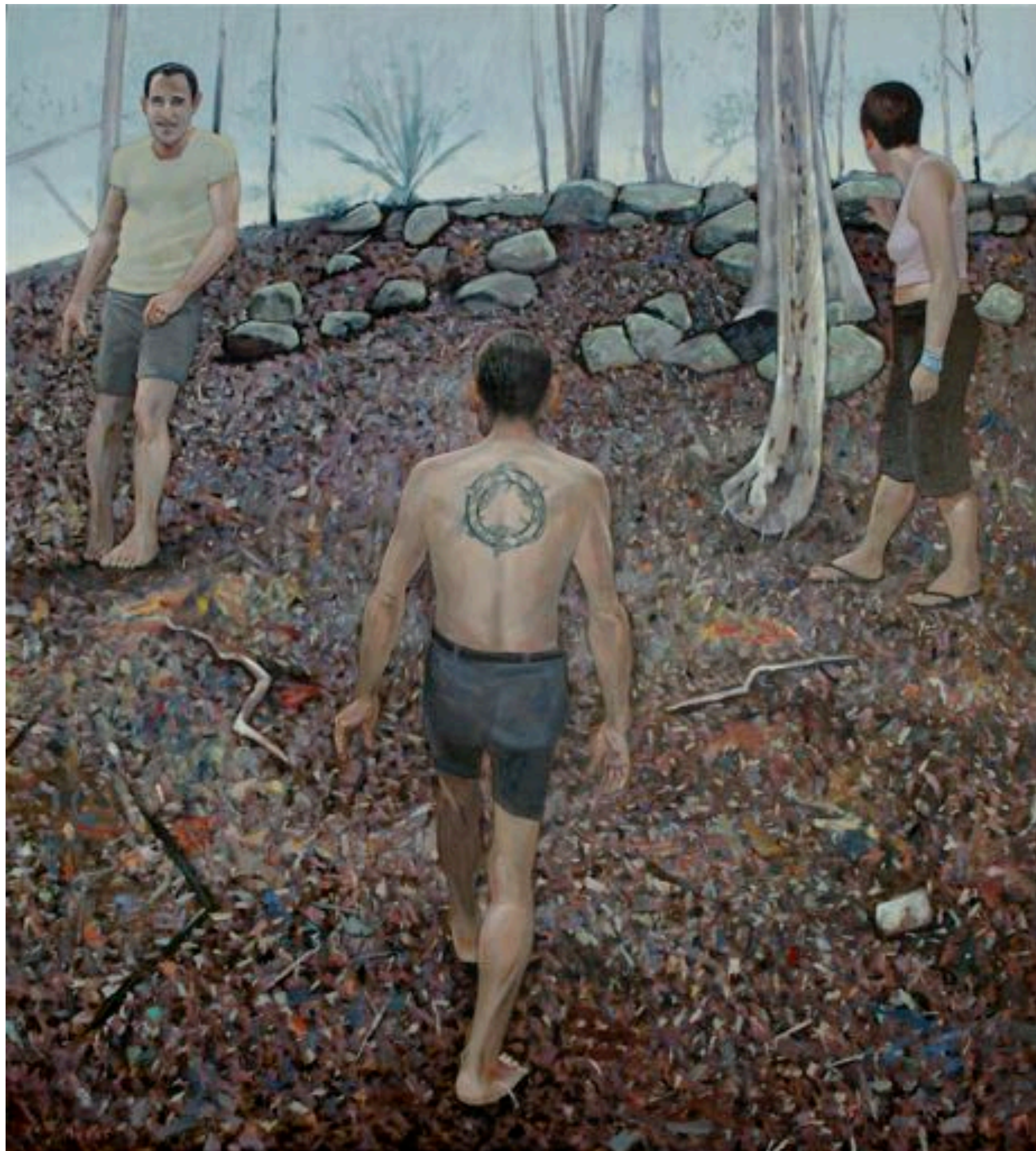
Towards Ubirr
2017
Oil on board
50 x 80 cm
\$4,000



Alluvial Figure
2004
Oil on canvas
100 x 130 cm
\$7,700



Sons of Los
2009
Oil on canvas
140 x 180 cm
\$14,000



Feux Limbo
2007
Oil on canvas
115 x 115 cm
NFS



Sleeping at the Watchtower
2014
Oil on canvas
50 x 80 cm
\$3,900



Whispers in the Doorway
2009
Oil on board
100 x 120 cm
\$5,000



Raw Honey Figures
2020
Diptych
Oil on board
81 x 118 cm
\$6,800



Churchyard figure

2020

Oil on canvas

62 x 80 cm

\$4,800



Queenscliff Girl

2020

Oil on canvas

78 x 60 cm

\$4,600



Churchyard Figure

2020

Oil on canvas

80 x 64 cm

\$4,500



Corn Roll Corner Figure

2020

Oil on canvas

92 x 61 cm

\$5,500



Tooth and Nail
2020
Oil on canvas
92 x 61 cm
\$6,500



Sodor of Iron & Ice

2009

Oil on board

60 x 135 cm

\$5,800



Pathfinder
2003
Oil on canvas
120 x 95 cm
NFS