

TITLE OF WORK: Landscape of Longing

ARTIST: Shonah Trescott

YEAR PRODUCED: 2011

MEDIUM: Oil on Linen

SIZE: 30cm x 40cm

EDITIONS: 1/1

The title of Trescott's painting, *Landscape of Longing*, evokes the desires and dreams projected and imposed upon the land. The vastness of the landscape does not unfold beneath a single magisterial gaze. Instead, we approach the scene at eye level, the faces of the figures turned away from us or obscured by Trescott's strokes. The muddled, oppressing sky bears down on the horizon line and the figures standing on the water's edge. On the farther shore, our only glimpse of the sun is obscured by wafts of ominous smoke that cut across the composition like a knife's jagged edge. Here, the land cannot be controlled, cannot be subdued, cannot be disciplined even by the painter's aesthetic regimen. The landscape in this 'landscape of longing' consists not just of the vistas of water and mountains, but of humans and their ambitions. Colored shades of dark forest green, just like the land and mountains around them, the figures teeter on the edges of our semiotic recognition. Half-man, half-landscape, Trescott seems to question just who - or what - is in control. - *Jenny Tang*

ARTIST'S CV

Born 1982 in Maitland, Australia, Shonah Trescott received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting in 2004 from the National Art School, Sydney, Australia. Trescott is best known for her landscape paintings, which, like the Hudson River School painters before her, explore the relationship between man and his environment. Indeed, her work belies a studied knowledge of Western history and landscape painting, as well as the primacy of landscape in the Australian cultural imagination. Although the views in Trescott's paintings, often sweeping and dramatic, echo the grand outlooks of masters past, her broad and expressive brushstrokes, as noted by Hoshino Futoshi, seem indebted to modernism. More than the ease and intelligence with which Trescott quotes the history of painting, however, her distinct roots in the contemporary lie in the possibility that the land, once celebrated and held in such hopeful esteem, has fallen short of everything it promised us – or we it.

In her 2010 solo exhibition at Ando Gallery in Tokyo, Japan, entitled *Mankind, Nature, Myth*, Trescott paid homage to the history of colonial settlement in Australia and its resulting mythologies: the land as an awe-inspiring, daunting, and ultimately, destructive force. Unlike her predecessors, however, Trescott has ventured far abroad to capture her landscapes and is keenly aware of global climate politics. In May 2012, Trescott undertook a one-month residency on the island of Ny-Ålesund in the Arctic Circle. In her resulting paintings, Trescott paid close attention to the history of the island as a former coal-mining town that was abandoned after a deadly accident in the 1960s, and now serves as an international research base. These paintings were exhibited at Ando Gallery as well as at MOMENTUM as part of the March/April 2013 exhibition *Missing Link*. Trescott is currently represented by EIGEN + ART, Berlin.

EDUCATION

2002 Bachelor of Fine Arts

Painting Major, National Art School, Sydney, Australia

2000 Diploma of Fine Arts

Hunter Institute of Technology, Newcastle, Australia

1999 Certificate III of Fine Arts

Hunter Institute of Technology, Newcastle, Australia

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2012 **Drawn into the light**

Alfred Wegener Institute für Polar und Meeresforschung,
Bremerhaven & Koichi Ando Gallery, Tokyo, Japan (solo)

2011 **Zwischen Film und Kunst**

Kunsthalle Emden, Germany

2010 **Mankind**

Nature, Myth, Ando Gallery, Tokyo, Japan (solo)

Labor

Galerie EIGEN + ART Berlin

New Positions

Art Cologne, Cologne, Germany (solo)

Groupshow

Galerie EIGEN + ART Leipzig, Germany

On this Island, Meeting and Parting,

New Zealand, Hazelhurst & Regional Art Gallery, Sydney, Australia

2009 **Leipzig calling**

New York Academy of Art, USA

Hab und Gut

Kunsthalle Rostock, Germany

Labor

Galerie EIGEN + ART Berlin, Germany

2008 **Fleurieu Biennale**

Adelaide, Australia

Australian Painting / Shonah Trescott and Euan MacLeod

Leipzig International Art Programme, Leipzig, Germany

Leipzig/ Travnik Partner Stadt Ausstellung

Cultural Centre of Travnik, Bosnia

Portia Geach Memorial Award

S.H. Ervin Gallery Sydney, Australia

Leipzig International Art Programme at Cavanacor Gallery

Cavanacor Gallery, Ireland

2007 From the Studio

Spinnerei, Leipzig, Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney, Australia (solo)

The Year in the Arts

S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, Australia

2006 Placement - Europe

Minton Gallery, Sydney, Australia (solo)

Sydney year in the Arts

S.H. Irvin gallery, Sydney, Australia

Leipzig- Mallorca

Tres Temps Galeria, Mallorca, Spain (solo)

Salon de Refusés

S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, Australia

2005 New Talent

Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney, Australia

2004 Degree Show 2004

National Art School, Sydney, Australia

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2011-12 Fellow at Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg

Delmenhorst, Germany

2009 Artist Profile/Windsor and Newton Scholarship

New Zealand

2008 Leipzig International Artist in Residency Award LIA

Germany

The Fleurieu Water prize

Adelaide, Australia

Commendation Portia Geach Memorial Award

Sydney, Australia

2005 La Cité Internationale des Arts

(studio scholarship), Paris

The Marten Bequest Travelling Art Scholarship for Painting

Cauz Group, Australia

Friends of the National Art School

La Cité Internationale des Arts (studio scholarship), Paris

2004 3rd Year NAS

(studio scholarship), Paris

Reg Richardson Travelling art scholarship

Australia

Robin Gibson Gallery Award

Australia

Art on the Rocks Young Artist Award

Australia

Highly Commended, The Redlands Westpac Art Prize

Australia

Finalist - Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship

Australia

William Fletcher Trust Painting Grant

Australia

2003 Australian Children's Health and Welfare Painting Award

Australia

Finalist - John Olsen Life Drawing Prize

Australia

BIBLIOGRAPHY

MONOGRAPHS

2010 Shonah Trescott

exh.cat., Ando Gallery (ed.), Tokyo 2010. Catalogues

2011 Let's party for a piece of art

Freunde der Pinakothek der Moderne (ed.), Munich, Germany



2011 **Zwischen Film und Kunst. Storyboards von Hitchcock bis Spielberg**
exh. cat. Kunsthalle Emden, ed. by Katharina Henkel, Kristina Jaspers, Peter
Mänz, Bremen, Germany