

# D A R Y L A U S T I N

*Here then, now there*

April 30 – May 25, 2003

This exhibition is a very matter of fact style of realism; the kind of painting based on observations with an aim towards casual clarity. The 'form' is also seen as part of the 'subject' of the work; all the works involve somehow the material of painting - palettes, brushes, stretchers, easels & paint. It is at this point that the 'form' & everyday material of painting as a 'subject' begins to slide quietly into a kind of studio surrealism.

*"Painting Fetish"* is a literal acknowledgement of that everyday practice of painting ,a stretcher frame with which I would hammer nails into over an extended period of time, as a result fetishising the practice, the form itself and passing time.

Responding to the physicality & materiality of made objects by making them more anthropomorphic hence works such as *"Palette fetish 1&2"* are a form of body extension, further emphasised with coverings of vellum, hair & fingerprints.

These began to influence the paintings as well, from a painted record of a made object *"Painting Fetish (heart brush)"* to thinking of the physicality of viewing paintings as in *"Front bar iconoclast"* a depiction of a dartboard which as an object is always hung at a specific height and viewed at a specific distance. However, in this looking glass world there are strange reversals- physically as well as intellectually.

This sense of the seemingly direct image which contains on closer inspection a greater depth produces, for me, a moving poetry - the gentle melancholy of *"Bouquet of Shadows"*, a disquieting depiction not of a Still-life but its' effect.

In an exhibition so focused on that which is made and responded to through its own making and viewing I've also included images of people, such as *"Looking (Monday)"* who are specifically looking, peering & attending an exhibition which in its turn reflects the position of the viewer who is made aware that those images also exist as created images in a studio.

Daryl Austin April 2003

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All photography by Mick Bradley

Cover image- "Eye palette" 2003, woodblock print, 57 x 38 cm, Edition of 10.

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