

Mark Tweedie

Before & After

23 February – 13 March 2021

Mark Tweedie's *Before & After* paintings mark an intersection between his previous nostalgic figurative works and the influence recent field trips into remote landscapes have had on his practice. Visiting southern Tasmania, the Pilbara and Gascoyne regions, and Albany on the south coast of Western Australia, greatly influenced the works. Collectively these portraits of the land are intimate character studies reflecting on the past, and our relationship with nature and the environment.

"A sense of history is palpable in the presence of these beguiling and poetic landscapes. I found myself contemplating and anthropomorphising each location; wondering what it had witnessed, thinking about its past, and how its appearance has changed throughout time.

Observing these areas of primeval terrain, and considering I have lived in cities for my adult life, I realised I am completely unaccustomed to encountering the land in its natural state. Everywhere around me is paved over, fenced in, and divided up, and its history limited to architecture.

The lonesome figures included in this body of work reference our fragmented relationship with the land and connection to place. They are fleeting moments and vestiges, based on stories, shared memories, and imagined narratives." Mark Tweedie, 2021

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Before & After is Mark Tweedie's second solo exhibition at Jan Murphy Gallery. Recent career highlights include being named a finalist in the John Stringer Prize (2020) and the acquisition of works by the St John of God Health Care Art Collection. He was awarded a Highly Commended in the Sunshine Coast Art Prize (2019), and was also a finalist in the 65th Blake Prize (2018) and the Kilgour Prize (2014, 2017, 2018). He has undertaken a number of regional residencies in the last few years including to Glaziers Bay, Tasmania (2018) and the Pilbara region in Western Australia (2019).