

GALLOWES GALLERY

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21 May - 18 June, 2006

GARETH MORSE*'Here Now, Gone Tomorrow'*

Gallows Gallery proudly announces their upcoming exhibition, 'Here Now, Gone Tomorrow' by Gareth Morse, opening on Sunday, May 21.

Originally from the Rhondda in Wales Morse emigrated to Australia in 1975. He spent 24 years on staff at (now) Edith Cowan University, as a lecturer, Head of Art Department and the Co-ordinator of their Postgraduate Studies program. By all accounts he was an excellent and favoured teacher of many contemporary practising artists in Perth.

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Morse has exhibited consistently in solo and group exhibitions and his artworks are held in prestigious collections in 10 countries around the world. The Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, at UWA held a Retrospective exhibition in 1997, and a quote from their Annual Report of 1999 placed Morse as a seminal painter of the West Australian landscape along with Robert Juniper.

Morse has painted the WA outback for 30 years, he is passionate about relating the experience of the land in his work. This current exhibition can be divided into several categories: - the landscape paintings from his trips into the outback reflecting his search for the essence of the land; the Abrolhos paintings, a place for which he has a deep affection Morse alludes to these as his calm/beautiful paintings which are concerned with order and tranquility; the fire paintings, bold and vibrant studies of fire; the burnt works on paper; the whimsys and peculiar things and finally, the unique Duyfken Sketchbook - a series of 35 drawings done during the two year course of the construction of the Duyfken replica ship.

Morse invests his awe of the elements of nature in his paintings, and despite their non-literal appearance, he emphasises the constructive components of his compositions with skilfull draughtsmanship, imbued with an intuitive sense of

abstract colour. Through this process, Morse attempts to connect with the process of nature itself, indeed he often subjects the works to elemental effects, where the forces of nature act on the paintings and drawings themselves. His motive above all is to paint truthfully from the landscape.

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