

Cast In a Different Light

Nolan Gallery – 09-24 October 2020

John Ingleton's latest multi-layered work continues his investigation into our conflicted connection with the natural environment by using elements of the constructions we use to extend our way into the bush that surrounds us interlaced with images of that landscape.

Cast iron gates, balustrade panels, lacework etc can be found all over Tasmania on houses from the late 1800's and early 1900's. These were made using moulds prepared from carved timber originals and cast by Tasmanian foundries or shipped from the UK (sometimes, shipped pieces were used to make new moulds for local casting).

Using a similar process John takes the form of a cast iron piece and uses it to create a "mould" into which he "pours" an image of the Tasmanian landscape. In a process similar to rubbing (perhaps one of the oldest of the techniques used in printmaking) he then digitally recreates the surface textures of the ironwork and overlays it on the landscape to give it the textural form of the original.

And, in the same way that we use our gates and fences to shut out wild nature, the artist uses a process of deconstruction and over-drawing of images of Tasmanian land, water and sky to reconstruct insubstantial landscape backgrounds which we can safely view from within our constructed environment.