

Nocte Luna

Caroline McGregor

"When the canvas frays
in the curragh of thought
and a stain of ocean
blackens beneath you,
may there come across the waters
a path of yellow moonlight
to bring you safely home."

John O'Donohue

Nocte Luna is an ode to my new home in Tasmania. Although heavily influenced in my painting style by JMW Turner, Caspar David Friedrich and Mark Rothko for the way they distilled an emotional experience, the architectural language of reductive, geometric abstraction my art practice was based in was shaped by my life living in the urban/suburban milieu. Relocating to regional Tasmania and living closer the natural environment has had a profound effect on my painting. Whilst simplification is still a key component of the work, the creation of dynamic tension through the considered interplay of light and dark demonstrates my ongoing interest in creating opportunities for psychological engagement whilst celebrating the wild beauty of my new home.

Working in a narrow tonal range I paint atmospheric works that deny clarity. Passages of obscured, distant or fading light bring a quiet relief to the settling dark. Horizon lines are defined only by their ambiguity and vertical streaks mediate the view as if read through a screen or a memory, all in an elusive effort to capture the sublime.