



Cloudscape

Andrew McIlroy

Masterful painter Andrew McIlroy produces sophisticated canvasses which straddle traditional and modernist methodologies. Studio finished landscapes represent an idealized pastoral arcadia, or impressionist vista; whilst initial studies “en plein air” allow the artist to draw inspiration directly from nature.

Referencing Australian Colonialism and the forefathers of the landscape tradition, McIlroy’s concern with atmosphere, golden light and voluminous skies also pays homage to the great Joseph Mallard William Turner and forms a bridge with contemporary figuration.

In his latest body of work McIlroy investigates the diffusion of light, employing Titianesque labour intensive glazing techniques. Underwater seascapes and cloud studies utilize strong saturated colour and a reduced monotone palette, whilst the artist effectively creates subtle tonal variations, imparting a dream like quality to the works.

McIlroy’s experimentation with the figure too, whilst referencing Renaissance portraiture, evokes everyday familiarity. His modernist interest in form, colour, and the “painterliness” of the surface underpins these works, as it does his landscapes. To achieve this delicate balance of style is rare. To do so and to hold the viewer spellbound, rarer still.

Source: Art Equity, Sydney