

Caroline Hall, MA – WSA Alumna Exhibition

Monday, 2 September 2013 – Thursday, 19 September 2013 (M-F: 10:00 – 16:00)

Saturday Opening, 7 September 2013, 11:00 – 16:00

Private View: Thursday, 5 September 2013, 17:00 – 20:00

**The Winchester Gallery, Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton,
Park Avenue, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8DL**

Caroline Hall's practice directly activates debates within painting over the last thirty years or more. Her artworks are not merely the paintings hanging on the wall, but the entire process she devises and undertakes to reach that end result – i.e., the object, the oil paint applied to the aluminium support. It is the whole performance of conceptualising and realising the painting which constitutes the artwork.

What is this process Hall has developed and performs? It is a dance between the moving image and the image arrested, stilled, concretised yet abstracted. Recognising the natural affinities – both conceptually and structurally – between the moving journey and the moving image, Hall takes the traditional landscape painting and teleports it into the modern age. In so doing she seeks to reconceive the possibilities of a contemporary painting practice post-video art.

The means of such transport back to painting past – and via – video are offered through direct recourse to transportation itself. Hall gathers inspiration from the dynamic blur framed within the space of a window on a train whether above or underground. The abstraction of landscapes – from the grand and lushly verdant English countryside to the lowly and grey or rusty mundanity of sidings and walls and concrete platforms as they hove into view with the juttering variation of speeds as the starts and stops of the journey modulate the picture presented – are the primary images Hall captures by video.

Returning to the studio, Hall projects these videos onto her sheets of aluminium and pausing the images at various points, paints over this projection to capture a lasting impression of the accumulated blur of speed and colour and shape to realise a paradoxically still life of a whirring landscape; as if one could capture motion and hold it even as it slips by...

With an art practice that includes other interesting dialogues between the analogue skills of draughtsmanship and the digital technology of video and the particular skills filming itself demands, Hall has crafted a unique intersection of how art and technologies have continued to shape one another for more than 150 years now. Accordingly, it has been a pleasure to bring together so many of Hall's works and videos in this mini-retrospective of one of our talented Winchester School of Art Alumni.

Exhibition review by Dr August Jordan Davis, 13 September 2013; August curated this exhibition with Caroline Hall in summer 2013.