

darkness on the edge of town

beam contemporary

tahlia jolly david mutch debbie pridmore
mark reid dawn roe david surman james voller
curated by kyle weise

22 July – 13 August 2011

Exhibition Opening Saturday 23rd of July 3pm - 5pm

Spanning video, photography and painting, *Darkness on the Edge of Town* explores the in-between sites and borderlands of the contemporary built environment and landscape. In the works presented here, 'darkness' is both a literal and metaphorical feature of these spaces. Several works are focused on night-time scenes, while other works present the suburban environment, with its expanding frontiers and forgotten spaces, in stark-daylight, but with potentially sinister undertones. Shared amongst all of the works is a fascination with landscapes that are in flux. The works create scenes that shift and blur the boundaries between darkness and light, movement and stillness, interior and exterior, the built environment and wild nature.

In a gesture that refers to the importance of popular culture in defining this landscape, the exhibition takes its title from Bruce Springsteen's popular 1978 album of the same name. In this album, as in much popular culture, the edge of town is a site of physical uncertainty that also presents a conceptual ambiguity: the edge of town is a frontier of possibility, a route to freedom from everyday life, but its possibilities are inevitably tainted with doubt and fear.

Referring back to the 1970s, the title also points towards the 1975 "New Topographics" exhibition, which focused on photographic work that captured the emerging contours of the American and European landscape. This work presented an exploration of the quotidian reality of a landscape dominated by cars, consumerism, waste and environmental destruction. Crucially, however, many of the artists associated with the "New Topographics" also found incredible beauty amongst this banality. Their work is neither a simple celebration nor outright condemnation of the environments that are their subject. The emerging patterns of land-use, transport and habitation, captured by these artists, have since expanded significantly and have given rise to new spatial agglomerations, such as 'edge cities' and 'exurban' developments. The works in this exhibition maintain a relationship with this work of the 1970s, but also begin to explore the specificity of contemporary landscapes, dwelling for a moment, and capturing the uncertainty of a physical landscape constantly remade.

The exhibition includes video works by David Mutch, Mark Reid and Dawn Roe; photographic works by Tahlia Jolly, David Surman and James Voller; and paintings by Debbie Pridmore.

For further information or images contact Kyle Weise: kyle@beamcontemporary.com.au



level 1, 30 guildford lane melbourne victoria 3000 australia
wednesday to saturday 12 – 6

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List of works

Main Gallery clockwise from left to right

- **Debbie Pridmore**, *Bench*, 2008 \$748
Oil on Canvas, 92 x 70cm
- **Debbie Pridmore**, *Ute*, 2008 Sold
Oil on Canvas, 92 x 70cm
- **David Surman**, *Untitled (The Approach)*, 2011 \$2200
Archival inkjet print on archival paper, 75 x 56cm framed
Ed. 3 + 1 AP
- **David Surman**, *Untitled (The Approach)*, 2011 \$2200
Archival inkjet print on archival paper, 75 x 56cm framed
Ed. 3 + 1 AP
- **David Surman**, *Untitled (The Approach)*, 2011 \$2200
Archival inkjet print on archival paper, 75 x 56cm framed
Ed. 3 + 1 AP
- **Mark Reid**, *Gate Three*, 2010 \$550
HD video on Blu-ray, 28 minutes.
Ed. 3 + 2 AP
- **James Voller**, *Homely Part One (Upper Hutt, New Zealand)*, 2010 \$880
Archival inkjet print on archival paper, 53 x 65cm framed
Ed. 3 + 1 AP
- **Dawn Roe**, *This is Nowhere (Everybody Knows)*, 2009 NFS
Two-Channel HD Video, 2 minutes, 10 seconds.
- **Tahlia Jolly**, *Light Series*, 2010 (Selection) \$660 each
Clockwise from top left to bottom right:
 Light Series 5
 Light Series 8
 Light Series 1
 Light Series 2
 Light Series 3
 Light Series 4
Digital Prints Mounted on Aluminium, 76 x 61cm
Ed. 2 + 1 AP

Alcove

- **David Mutch**, *Abandoning the Surface*, 2011 \$550
Looped HD video
Ed. 3 + 1 AP

* All prices include GST

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