

Suspension is a particularly apt title for Hobie Porter's current exhibition. It is a clever use of semantics, as his implied, transfixed condition of suspension is open to numerous levels of interpretation.

Porter's work advantageously employs extremes of scale – realism & surrealism, grandeur & detail. These elements drive a personal reaction to the work. When viewing Porter's work I feel like a spectator detached from the imposing theatre of his landscapes, yet somehow I know that I am also an integral part of the drama of his canvas. I am mesmerised – this hovering above the landscape infers an otherworldliness that is both confronting & liberating.

The precision of Porter's work is meditative, simultaneously dynamic & delicate in both application & effect. The detail wills you to make a more thorough examination of his work. Porter's concentration on detail through his superb application of paint obliges us to regard nature's minutiae that we habitually take for granted in the everyday chaos of our modern lives. His meticulousness actually urges us to ask ourselves, "what else haven't I noticed?"

It is through this exactitude that we become compelled to pause & consider the artist's environmental message. Porter has a serious connection to the environment & his sense of place. Although his message is delivered with anxious ambivalence, his works can be seen as moral statements. Porter's symmetry of composition, his expansive way of seeing & his subdued, modest palette are influential. It is ironic that we are struck by the volume of his message considering that we are presented with quiet, modest & pensive works. I believe this is where another inference of his suspension enters the picture – the connotation of suspension that is closer to a deferral or postponement. We cannot delay our repair & existence with our immediate environment. This is why Porter's paintings are so successful – he motivates us to think about how in the most pedestrian of events, like a leaf fluttering in a pavement whirly whirly, we may recognise an intimate significance therein.

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