

A Survey – photographs by David Stephenson
Boutwell Draper Gallery, Sydney
Exhibition 19 October – 12 November 2011
Opening Saturday 22 October 2-4pm

A fascination for the vast in space and time has led David Stephenson to travel and photograph extensively around the world, with journeys to Europe, the Himalayas, and both the Arctic and Antarctic.

He has photographed a range of subjects: landscapes, skyscapes, cityskypes and the ceilings of European sacred architecture. He uses his photography to explore abstract, intangible themes including the idea of the sublime, environmental concerns and the transcendental power of light.

This survey shows a range of works, starting with The Ice Series from his visit to Antarctica in 1991 over two examples from the stunningly beautiful toned gelatin silver prints from the Drowned Series 2002, a selection of his Star Drawings 1995-2006, the Domes 1993-2005, the Vaults 2003-09, his Dusk to Dawn Series 2009 up to his glowing images of the Light Cities 2008-11.

David Stephenson was born in 1955, and studied at the University of Colorado and then the University of New Mexico, completing an MFA in 1982. He moved to Australia that same year to take up a position teaching photography at the University of Tasmania School of Art, where he completed a PhD in Fine Art in 2001.

Stephenson's photographs have been exhibited extensively internationally, including solo exhibitions at the Art Gallery of New South Wales (1993), the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (1994), the Paisley Museum and Art Gallery, Scotland (1995), the National Gallery of Victoria, (1998), the Cleveland Museum of Art (2001), and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (2001). His work is represented in many public and private collections including the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Art Gallery of South Australia, the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris, the National Gallery of Australia, the National Gallery of Victoria, the Queensland Art Gallery, the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, the International Museum of Photography and Film at George Eastman House, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

A meditation on the sublime has sustained David Stephenson's artistic practice over 30 years, which has evolved through long-term, interrelated projects of inquiry. His photographs of the sublime ceilings of European sacred architecture have been published in two monographs with Princeton Architectural Press: *Visions of Heaven: The Dome in European Architecture* 2005 and *Heavenly Vaults: From Romanesque to Gothic in European Architecture* 2009, and showcased worldwide in many exhibitions.