

Peter Daverington at Boutwell Draper Gallery 20 May – 19 June 2010

Holy Mountain

***Holy Mountain*, Peter Daverington's second solo exhibition of paintings in Sydney explores the cultural shift in perception of our natural landscape from the 19th century Romantic point of view to the resource hungry era of 21st century global economics.**

Combining the aesthetics of Romantic landscape painting with digital and architectural references, Peter Daverington's paintings simultaneously highlight the mystical reverence for mountains in ancient cultures with the dominant contemporary world-view of the landscape as an economic resource.

This shift in perception has been defined in recent times by the death of the frontier. Unlike in previous times where nature was a vast and boundless space that surrounded culture and civilisation, today we are faced with a situation whereby the natural landscape has been contained - existing on the brink of imminent consumption by urban development and mining.

The 9 paintings that make up the exhibition of *Holy Mountain* present the sacred mountains of Nanga Parbat in Pakistan, the Matterhorn in Switzerland and Torres del Paine in Chile. Three paintings show cropped views of the mountain while others zoom out to examine the larger picture, revealing traces of human intervention such as architecture, staircases, platforms and grids. The landscapes Peter Daverington depicts are spaces in flux, caught between the notion of endless progress and the ongoing destruction of natural habitats.

In these paintings Peter Daverington imagines a future where nature is simulated into a bygone era of majestic peaks, distant meadows and flowing rivers - a virtual environmental theme park where technology has supplanted nature as the dominant creative force.

With an established background in graffiti art, mural painting and Turkish classical music, Peter Daverington attained his MFA from the VCA in 2006. He has held numerous solo exhibitions in Sydney and Melbourne and participated in many national group exhibitions, including the Sulman Prize 2010, currently on show at the Art Gallery of NSW, Keith and Elisabeth Murdoch Travelling Fellowship Exhibition (2008 & 2007), Robert Jacks Drawing Prize (2003) and the Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize (2009). In 2009 he was awarded the John Coburn Award for Emerging Artists in the Blake Prize for Religious Art. He has received several project grants and successfully completed a variety of public art commissions throughout the world, including Turkey, Egypt, Argentina, Germany, USA, Central America, the Czech Republic and Australia.