

Jacqui Chapman: Degree Show 2006

Since graduating from Wirral Metropolitan College in 2006, followed by a Fellowship year in 2007, my professional practice has continued to reflect my relationship with landscape, exploring the significance of this from personal experience within a broader international context.

My recent Masters Degree in Painting, Wimbledon College of Art, University Arts London (2019) focussed on the impact habituation to violence has on people, and the need for escape from it, in fabricated gated communities. In the light of recent world politics where borders are being redrawn and attitudes towards 'other' less tolerant, I investigated this within a post-apartheid South African.

The painting featured is called *Gated Community iii* and is part of a series of paintings about these gated communities. Voyeurism is the undercurrent where the viewer becomes complicit too. The idea of watching and being watched is a way of life. These landscapes are charged with psychological and political histories where 'entitlement' platforms the inheritance of the apartheid system with a desire to escape violence in Modernist homes cut off from reality.

Personal research also informed my practice as an undergraduate on the Fine Art degree course where I questioned whether identity is shaped by territory. My intention was to create a personal, contemporary, painterly language to convey a complex, emotive interpretation as an immigrant who felt exiled from my homeland.

The Fellowship enabled development of these ideas and an opportunity to expand on the effect of artistic language. It was a very productive, innovative year for me, which I whole-heartedly enjoyed, experimenting with different technologies and processes. I explored whether photography was too exact a mnemonic to record unreliable memory.

Shortlisted for Bloomberg New Contemporaries in 2019 with two paintings of saccharine-sweet memories of idyllic innocence behind high garden walls, and which referenced J.M. Coetzee's *Age of Iron*.

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Gated Community iii 2019