



Matt Arbuckle

Inches of Mercury 2021

acrylic on knitted polyester

vo163 x 132cm

Matt Arbuckle

Artist Statement

Matt Arbuckle's practice is a process-driven exploration of place, representing landscapes that are conceptualised through their very making. Through an experimental practice, Arbuckle uses elements of traditional Japanese shibori dyeing techniques to create abstract compositions by wrapping, twisting, folding, and draping fabric over found surfaces and structures. The resulting paintings use depth and movement to trace and reveal abstract memories, imprinting the experience of place into the artwork.

Arbuckle sees his works as “embodying both abstraction and landscape – neither the more dominant. I also see the works as straddling a line between deliberate gesture versus allowing the material to respond to the space, climate, and surface it is made within. To a degree, I direct the general structure and colour sequence by choosing how I fold and lay fabric for soaking: sometimes I will choose to place a fold on a crack or join in the floor, which through the soaking process, allows it to be exaggerated as the colour pools and then dries in response. The result is the fabric making a rubbing, or impression from that particular location.

Landscape is an interesting word – one with multiple meanings. Landscape devices or structures are present in the form of my paintings. I see the concept of landscapes, however, existing in my work as more reference to the environments and places where the works are made; the land has influenced the outcome of the work as such. Rather than mirroring a landscape, the works tend to look inwards, in that they document, retain, or echo the places and times in which they were made”.

Biography (b.1987)

Matt Arbuckle divides his time as a practicing artist between Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland, New Zealand and Naarm, Melbourne, Australia. He is represented by Two Rooms in Auckland and by Daine Singer in Melbourne where he held regular solo shows since 2017.

Since he graduated from Unitec Institute of Technology, Auckland, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2009 Arbuckle has been featured in numerous group exhibitions including 'Intimate Interiors, Parlour Projects (Hawks Bay NZ, 2021), Regarding the Wild, ChaShama (New York), 2019 and *Re-Purpose*, Drill Hall Gallery (Canberra, 2016), Arbuckle has also exhibited widely internationally with shows at the following galleries over the past decade Vermont Studio Centre (USA), Tim Melville (Auckland), Paulnache Gallery (Gisborne, New Zealand) and Baustelle Gallery (Berlin).

In 2017 Arbuckle was the recipient of the James Wallace Art Fellowship at the Vermont Studio Centre, USA and in 2021 he undertook a residency at Driving Creek (New Zealand). This year he was selected by the Melbourne Art Fair as one of six artists commissioned to make a large-scale installation in their feature and debut exhibition titled *Beyond*. Arbuckle's work is held in the Chartwell Collection, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, James Wallace Arts Trust and Arthur Roe Collection.

Matt Arbuckle is represented by Daine Singer, Melbourne and Two Rooms, Auckland