

THE 
GRIFFIS ART CENTER

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST-in-RESIDENCE PROGRAM – MAISON des ARTISTES
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT USA

Philippa BLAIR

2002 January Artist-in-Residence
Christchurch, New Zealand



"Spring in New London"

Date Acquired: 6/2/2002, Date Created:
Framed Dimensions: Unframed, Picture Dimensions: 30 x 40"
Medium: Oil on Canvas

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Artist-in-Residence
from
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There is a sense of surprise discovering and uncovering the mysteries of a new place ... it fires the imagination and enriches the spirit in suggesting other histories, traditions and forms shaped by natural forces and the human spirit.

Known indigenous cultures "dream" into a sense of place. Directions, battles, maps, a life lived, in marks, pictographs, petro glyphs, display an ancestry which is universal but a survival particular to a specific location. Sign language, gesture, calligraphy are part of this complex of visualization, sound and action. Lexicons of chaotic markings, indexes of maps and a new vocabulary start to swing into motion.

My work process is organic and experimental and deals with flux and change. I try to evolve new forms and dynamic connections and sensitize myself to the energies that stretch between points of travel and interest. Playing, stretching, failing, provoking, stumbling, changing, erasing, building, and struggling. Changing directions away from a sleek resolution. Building and destroying structures in paint. Composing/Destroying/ Recomposing Moving, threading, weaving, carving into a wet surface. There is a time limit. Retreat and Advance. A precarious balance between meditation and motion.

The Adventure for me is to SEE and have an authentic response to each new experience. New London, new life, old dramas, another perspective. A humanizing settlement, a retreat into the ever present mercurial nature of land/sea and sky and what happens at the edges of these elements. Friction/ Adaptation/ Acceptance

I'm guided through this wicked labyrinth of first impressions and connecting points of interest to find the essential and the surprising and mark it rhythmically with dynamic forms and lines of action that can best express the ambiguity, structures, magic and memory of a new environment.

A journey in an accelerated, fragile and changing world.