

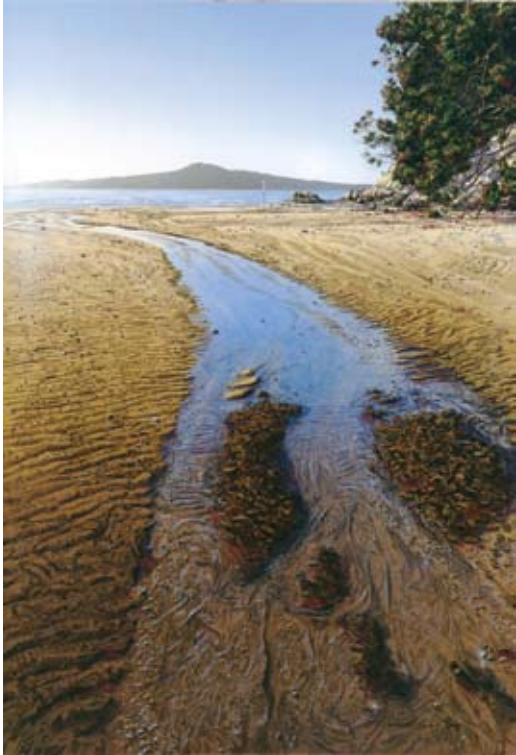
Lawrence Leitch N e w Z e a l a n d



White Christmas, Mt Cook Acrylic on board 50 x 163 cm



International Art Centre



Rangitoto from St Heliers Acrylic on board 44 x 30 cm

New Zealand

28 October - 8 November 2010

The paintings of Lawrence Leitch whisper New Zealand. Born 1958 the young Leitch attended Wellington Polytechnic School of Design. In the early 1980s he lived and worked in the United States. On his return, Leitch began a career as a full time artist and in 1995 won a gold medal in the Pride of Print awards. His last solo exhibition held July 2004 in Auckland, was a complete sell out.

Working in extreme detail Leitch has perfected a very personal technique. His finely glazed acrylics retain many of the subtle qualities so admired in his earlier watercolors

This long awaited exhibition showcases an impressive collection of acclaimed New Zealand landscapes. As always the skill and alchemy of Leitch's work awakes in the viewer a sense of awe and affinity. Whether it be the southern winds of change, buffeting an old farm building, or red pohutakawa blossoms floating on a blue tide, these paintings speak the language of New Zealand.

Frances Davies - Director



Norman & Dangerous Company, Pauahatanui Acrylic on board 55 x 120 cm

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Cathedral Cove, Coromandel Acrylic on board 24 x 37 cm



Rocky Bay Boatsheds, Waiheke Acrylic on board 60 x 176 cm

Waiheke Island lies in the middle of the Hauraki Gulf, just thirty five minutes by ferry from downtown Auckland. An idyllic spot with a mild climate, Waiheke is home to thriving vineyards and olive groves where island life embraces both sophistication and simplicity. To the south of busy Onetangi lies Rocky Bay, or Omiha. Omiha means 'welcome' and Rocky Bay, one of Waiheke's finest anchorages, has been welcoming 'boaties' for decades. Leitch returns to this sheltered spot and paints with evident joy the timbered and corrugated iron boat sheds and flotilla of yachts. Man made structures against nature's perfect backdrop.



Early Snow, Canterbury Plains Acrylic on board 38 x 90 cm

The Canterbury Plains, situated on the central east coast of the South Island, is an area of pastoral perfection. Nestled between the Southern Alps and the Pacific Ocean, the plains are viewed from the air as a flat patchwork quilt of abundant agriculture. From the early 1850s the first wave of settlers valued the tussock plains of Canterbury as ideal for sheep farming. Formed from the alluvial shingle fans of the Waimakariri, Raikaia, Selwyn and Rangitata Rivers, today the area produces the largest proportion of New Zealand's grains. The indomitable Cantabrian spirit echoes throughout this painting. From the rugged splendour of the Southern Alps, chosen by Leitch as a backdrop, the viewer treads uneven snow covered ground. To the left a farm building shelters beneath windswept macrocarpa trees. In this painting the chill, bracing atmosphere of a clear Southern day is almost tangible.



Rangitoto from Takapuna Beach Acrylic on board 42 x 106 cm

The kilometre long, crescent shaped beach of Takapuna is one of the most beautiful of the Hauraki coastline. Named by Maori, Takapuna means *high place by the water*. A special area of great natural beauty, Takapuna has long been enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. In the early 1880s it became a popular spot for wealthy businessmen to build summer homes. Wisely, many chose to live there permanently, commuting daily by ferry to their Auckland offices. Today the timeless attraction of a golden shoreline, sheltered swimming and ever-changing ocean views make Takapuna more popular than ever. In this work Leitch revisits a favourite location. His privileged viewer stands in crystal blue waters on the shores of Takapuna, gazing refreshed by his surroundings, at Rangitoto, sentinel of the Waitemata Harbour.



Mission Bay Sunrise Acrylic on board 60 x 168



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272 PARNELL ROAD AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND TEL +64 9 3666 045 www.internationalartcentre.co.nz