

Pioneer Highway

NEW PAINTINGS BY TIM CROUCHER



The stretch from the Square, down Pioneer Highway, past Jackeytown Road, Karere Lagoon and out to Foxton, measured the centre of my early childhood. As I grew, my area expanded to include Shannon, Feilding, the Whirokino Trestle and river bank, the Pohongina Valley, and up to the Desert Road and Taupo. And, of course, to Wellington.

Between the late 1800s and 1940s, flax milling was a big industry in much of the area around Tiakitahuna. A substantial flax mill was located at the Opiki Bridge. We'd often drive across its creaking boards... it's still a fascinating place to visit because of the spectre of its towers and the ragged wires that invite climbing.

Flax growing and milling altered the swampy landscape, enflamed tensions between Māori and colonials, encouraged the formation of trade unions, and polluted the Manawatū River.

Visiting Manawatū and Rangitikei now, I like that it's all shifted and changed to accommodate current needs and amusements. The reminders are still there, but there are carparks, boat ramps, racetracks and 'light no fires' signs.

This exhibition comprises a suite of paintings that mingle historical, pastoral, and imaginary situations; it is a tender and playful reflection on a set of unglamorous yet peculiar locations and the identities that link to them.

Tim Croucher, 2015

All works are courtesy of the artist and School of Media Arts, Waikato Institute of Technology

List of Works:

1.	<i>Desert Lookout</i> , 2014, acrylic on canvas, 800mm x 1000mm	\$1000
2.	<i>Manchester Sq Burnout</i> , 2014, acrylic on canvas, 800mm x 1000mm	\$1000
3.	<i>Manchester Sq Burnout Comp.</i> , 2014, acrylic on canvas, 800mm x 1000mm	\$1000
4.	<i>Smoker</i> , 2014, acrylic on canvas, 2700mm x 2000mm	\$4500
5.	<i>Opiki Picnic</i> , 2014, acrylic on canvas, 1650mm x 1300mm	\$1500
6.	<i>Gorge Ferry (for James Bragge, photographer, circa 1878)</i> , 2014, acrylic on canvas, 1200mm x 1420mm	\$2000
7.	<i>Five Mile Avenue, Forty Mile Bush (for James Bragge, photographer, circa 1878)</i> , 2014, acrylic on canvas, 1200mm x 1420mm	\$2000
8.	<i>Flood Protection Cut</i> , 2014, acrylic on canvas, 800mm x 1000mm	\$1000
9.	<i>Karere Hydro</i> , 2014, acrylic on canvas, 750mm x 3000mm	\$2500
10.	<i>Karere Drag</i> , 2014, acrylic on canvas, 750mm x 3000mm	\$2500
11.	<i>Miranui Scutching Shed showing Mill Dam and Offroaders in the foreground</i> , 2014, acrylic on canvas, 800mm x 1000mm	\$1000
12.	<i>Out Late</i> , 2014, acrylic on canvas, 910mm x 710mm	\$1000

All works in this exhibition are available for sale by the artist. Please contact Tim Croucher directly at email tcroucher@orcon.net.nz . Please note that no works sold during this exhibition may be collected before the exhibition closes on to the public.

