

Fergus Heron

Common

Selected Works 2010-2011

Since 2000, Fergus Heron has been slowly and meticulously developing an ongoing body of work concerned with visible tensions between landscape and architecture, nature and artifice, the modern and traditional. Heron's subjects are commonly experienced places that embody real and imagined histories. His work involves photography as a process of long-term engagement with inter-related subjects, rather than successively working from one project to the next. Through a research based working process, the photograph itself is considered a complex image, between document and picture.

Influenced by a mixture of early nineteenth century British landscape painting; mid nineteenth century British landscape and architectural photography; the films of Patrick Keiller; the novels of J.G. Ballard, and, Iain Sinclair, his work foregrounds the combined importance of history, mythology and topography in representing place. Working always with available light, Heron's photographs are absent of human activity, emphasising stillness and a sense of extended present time. Often a single photograph of each subject is made. Otherwise, where similar views are possible, photographs are made in pairs or sequences. This technique complicates the subject, and, more importantly, the process of seeing, posing questions about how elements between and within the photographs are related. Working with a large format view camera that produces highly detailed prints, Heron's work aims to decelerate and distil the process of photography, through slow picture making, and concentration upon some of its most basic principles.

Common

These pictures are made on an ongoing basis in a large common in the south east of England. The common is also an extensive nature reserve, recreational resource and lowland heath, one of the oldest forms of British landscape. It is a place with a military past where Queen Victoria inspected British troops upon departure for the Crimea. It was also used as a location for films such as Lawrence of Arabia and Superman II. Therefore, this work documents visible natural changes in a landscape that embodies social, political and cultural histories beyond its appearance. The common is photographed from a point that enables a view of the landscape, alternately revealed and concealed throughout the seasons. The work aims through emphasis upon change and continuity to depict place, and how we see it, as complex, shifting and uncertain.









Titles	Medium	Dimensions
1. Chobham Common, Spring, 2011	C-Type Print	879 x 761mm
2. Chobham Common, Summer, 2011	C-Type Print	879 x 761mm
3. Chobham Common, Autumn, 2010	C-Type Print	879 x 761mm
4. Chobham Common, Winter, 2010	C-Type Print	879 x 761mm

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