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A story in the telling...

An exegesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree A Masters in Fine Arts Massey University, Wellington, New Zealand Damon Cook 2018 Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.

Contents

- Abstract 4
- A story in the telling 5
- A look inside 5
- Contexts and conditions 6
- Art responds 7
- The contemplative responds 10
- My art practice (1) 12
- A 'riyaaz' for art 14
- My own riyaaz gazing 15
- My art practice (2) -19
- Where to next 24
- References 25
- Bibliography 30
- Images 32 39

Abstract

This exegesis contains a laying out of the ground that is our contemporary moment of environmental and social crisis,. This includes the approaches and attitudes that have brought that crisis into being. These are approaches and attitudes that seek to control and master the world. The 'body'– that is, our own bodies and the body of that world– is where this drama is seen to play out. Art and contemplative practices are understood as offering counter modes to control and exploitation. These counter modes of practice and understanding are examined and critiqued. An attempt is made to perform this problem by offering points of clarity and orientation, while, at the same time avoiding *too* much clarity and control. Which is to say that this exegesis is also a literary text, in part and whole. Finally, in keeping with this performance of clarity and control, and possible counter modes, the concluding section –'Where to Next'– offers two suggestive, rather than explicitly directive ways forward.