

MY MIND IS THE SKY MY BODY IS THE SEA

New work by Jonah and Chris Cacioppe
22/07/09 – 07/08/09



PRESS RELEASE | 17 June 2009

Perth artist Jonah Cacioppe has combined his passion for the environmental movement with his trademark themes of spirituality and beauty in his latest exhibition *My Mind is the Sky | My Body is the Sea*.

The exhibition is a collaborative effort between Jonah Cacioppe and his brother Chris Cacioppe. It showcases a mix of striking prints, photographs and paintings which explore the interdependence of nature and humanity and highlight the beauty, awe and destruction of both forces. The exhibition is dominated by several large brooding paintings of vast empty seascapes and monumental cloud studies. The paintings are complemented by a suite of prints produced in collaboration with Chris. These digital prints draw together both enigmatic portraits and animals.

"I've really tried to make these works sublime, peaceful and awe-inspiring but there is also a dark undercurrent. The large paintings of vast oceans and stunning skies show the beauty of nature but another portraying a majestic ice berg is a reference to global warming and the loss of nature."

A departure from last years more expressive and pop inspired show - *Sex, Bombs & Bliss*, this restrained and contemplative body of work approaches the sea and sky in both their terrible beauty and silent vastness.

"I have always found the ocean inspiring and mysterious and I love the vastness of it," he says.

He says while the issue of environmental destruction has only in recent years been highlighted, the underlying themes of the paintings date back more than a century.

"This is an old school theme. The great landscape painters of the 19th century were expressing the sublime through landscape rather than religious icons and these works are also talking about our experience of spirituality and the sublime through nature."

The artworks are drawn from found photography - an extensive process of collecting and manipulating images was undertaken by the brothers to create the paintings and prints. However the paintings also draw on Jonah's traditional training and have taken a step back from the abstract works which featured heavily in previous exhibitions.

"My original training was in traditional old master techniques and figurative painting and most of my recent work was very abstract, so now I'm incorporating new techniques such as photo manipulation and digital prints to create classic works in a contemporary way."

Born in Sydney and raised in Perth, Jonah returned to Perth in 2007 after 12 years studying, training and teaching in London and Sydney. He has exhibited extensively in London, Oxford, Sydney and Melbourne.

My Mind is the Sky | My Body is the Sea runs from July 22 to August 7, 2009 at emerge ART SPACE, 676A Beaufort Street, Mt Lawley.

| ENDS

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Notes to Editors:

Opening times: Wed - Sun, 11am-4pm.
Dates: Wed 22 July - Sun 7 August 2009
Web: www.emerge-art.com.au
Email: admin@emerge-art.com.au
Venue: emerge ART SPACE
676A Beaufort Street. Mt Lawley
Perth, Australia. 6050

Press Inquiries:

Jan or Sherri at emerge ART SPACE
Email: admin@emerge-art.com.au
Phone: +61 (8) 9271 6459
Fax: +61 (8) 9271 6464
Mobile: +61 417 184 638

For a press pack visit www.cacioppe.com/press

Press Images:

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| 1. I am the Vast Night | Oil on canvas | 137x112cm |
| 2. I am the Raging Sea | Oil on canvas | 198x137cm |
| 3. I am the Wandering Giant | Oil on canvas | 198x137cm |
| 4. I Dreamt I was a Girl (Hyena) | Inkjet print | 40x29cm |
| 5. I Dreamt I was Soaring (Eagle) | Inkjet print | 40x38cm |
| 6. I Dreamt I was Running (Zebra) | Inkjet print | 40x29cm |
| 7. I Dreamt of the Night (Night Owl) | Inkjet print | 40x38cm |

For a press pack visit www.cacioppe.com/press - and save the press images to your desktop