

Art review: “Dross” at Form Studio and Gallery

By Peter Haynes

16 November 2017

***Dross*. By Kirrily Humphries. Form Studio and Gallery 1/30 Aurora Ave, Queanbeyan. Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm. Until November 29.**

Kirrily Humphries' *Dross* is a quietly meditative exhibition and like *Part of the Process* an exhibition not to be missed. There are seven pieces on display, each oil on Arches paper. The images are small and exquisite in the manner they are made and in the manner they are placed off-centre on the paper on which they sit. The gallery space becomes a quietly elegant arena for contemplation and reverie. This is underscored by the muted inchoateness of the atmospheric interiors that constitute the artist's subject-matter. The works form part of the *GNH Interior* series. Each image is full of the muted melancholy of empty spaces and speaks of memory, of past inhabitants and past activity. The simple and limited palette is quietly effective and subtly embracing and allows the architectural structure and enclosed spatial configuration to be legible to the viewer.

The off-centre placement of the images creates an aesthetic of concentration that draws the viewer across the startling blankness of the paper into the carefully constructed interior view of the deserted hospital rooms. As in the previous exhibition process and theme (form and content) are elegantly aligned. Here the psychological implications of the empty space are quietly present and the implications of time passing are also not denied. The unpeopled narrative awaits viewer input. For me these works are simply beautiful in their understated visualisation of interior states in a language that announces a resolved and nuanced aesthetic, at once controlled and expressive, private and universal. A remarkable exhibition.