

Daniel Chester

Lives and works in Dublin, Ireland

An artist's statement

The current body of research is a visual enquiry into the effects of mans over consumption of natural materials and the continuous destruction and long term detrimental effects this is having on the rural landscape of Ireland. The research particularly focuses on the landscape on counties Leitrim, Roscommon, Sligo and Mayo and aims to question what relationship can be connected between this overindulgent nature and our historical and sacred connection to the environment.

As part of this area of interest I am also fascinated in the reality of the "Commons in Society" and the connection between the moral responsibilities of the community towards the landscape. The ownership of parks, greens, lanes, walkways and rural areas that is open to the public. My current area of research also extends to an enquiry into traditional drawing and painting of the landscape, in particular the idea and notion of romantics within the rural landscape. Areas of continued interest include artist

such as Casper Fredrick, William Blake and German romanticism painting, In particular my work is influenced by paintings "Monasty Graveyard In Snow (1819) and The Abbey in The Oakwood (1810) by Fredrick, other influences include Dutch painting in particular the work of Pieter Brugel. The recurring theme within my work focuses on notions of disillusion with materialism, return to the natural world, death, destruction and resurrection.

The choice of aluminium as a medium in which to paint on is deliberate one, although this material is not one of traditional use I find its coldness and dampness a direct connection to the landscapes and subjects I choose to paint, the aluminium also enables me as an artist to show the process of painting i.e. brushstrokes, additional liquids each work is very much unique as the experimental development can very much change with each painting.

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wishing tree