

About Kate...

Kate Buckley is an artist and a facilitator. She is interested in projects which link art, people and place. Kate now lives in New Zealand, but she used to live in Corca Dhuibhne on the west coast of Ireland.

Kate studied Fine Art and Art History at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin, and went on to study Adult and Community Education. She lives on a farm in Taihape with her partner Kevin.

About the work...

graphite, gold and ink on cotton rag paper

I chose the best papers - Fabriano from Italy, Saunders and Somerset from Britain. These heavy, cotton rag papers are soft and have a very slight skin-like texture that comes through when I work the graphite onto the paper surface. They are beautiful to handle and almost creamy to touch. I want the artworks to have a cool, almost museum-like feel, so I choose book white or very slightly off-white paper.

Then I work careful shapes into the paper surface and burnish them into being, pulling these vessels into the image space. There is no decoration on the vessels.

I like to think the balance between image and paper invites the viewer to focus on the object described. Occasionally there is a rope, pendulum or a suggestion of a horizon or compass on the page. This gives the work a little context and allows for a breathing space around the subject.

The colour comes from richly pigmented and shellac-based Sennelier inks. Shellac gives the colours density and a slight shine.

Then there's a layer of size, a sticky, slightly pink fluid that's brushed over the colour. When it dries I 'haw' on it, mouth open like a child on a frosty morning. The moisture from my breath makes the size sticky enough to attract the gold leaf.

Working with gold brings immediate symbolism to the work. It's just beautiful when it catches the light, changing and reflecting different colours. I wanted the vessels to contain precious cargo, and the surrounding areas to support that without demanding attention. Each decision, intuitive at first and then deliberate, has been based around this idea.

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Kate Buckley

WORKS ON PAPER

Artist's Statement

I researched this work in Norway and Denmark, where I visited the Viking Ship Museum at Roskilde, a graveyard of boat-shaped graves at Lindholm Hoje and the Oseberg and Gokstad ships in Oslo.

The powerful symbolism of Viking ship burials captivated my interest. These vessels were taken out of the water and buried so they could carry the dead on their journey to the next world.

As I worked I became more interested in the balance and weight of the vessels. I extended the shapes. Some became mathematical; crescents and arcs masquerading as ships. Others have long oars and weights to steady the vessel and keep it on course. In most of the images the ship is travelling towards the viewer, pulling you into the viewing space.

The ship and its context are described in monotonous, the cargo is colour, the most precious of which is gold.

Cover Image - Depth Vessel, Kate Buckley 2012 (56 x 36cm)

Ráiteas an Ealaíontóra

Thugas faoi thaighde ar an saothar seo sa Danmhairg agus san Iorua, ag tabhairt cuairt ar Mhúsaem na Long Lochlannach ag Roskilde, reilig uaigheanna i gcruth bháid ag Lindholm Hoje agus Oseberg agus loing ag Gokstad in Olsó.

Bhíos gafa le siombalachas cumhachtach adhlachta na long Lochlannach. Bhí na háirthe seo tógtha amach ón uisce agus curtha chun na mairbh a iompar go dtí an saol eile.

De réir a chéile, agus mé ag obair, músclaíodh mo chuid suime i gcothromaíocht agus i meáchain na n-áirthe. Mhéadaíos a gcruthanna. D'aistrigh cuid acu go mataimaiticiúil – corráin agus áirsí i riocht long. Tá maidí rámha fada agus tromáin ballasta ag cuid eile acu – chun an áirthe a choimeád socair agus a stiúraigh a threo.

Sa chuid is mó de na híomhanna tá an t-áirthe ag dul i dtreo an bhreathnóra, le do tharrac isteach sa spás féachanna. Tá an t-áirthe agus a chomhthéacs léirithe in aontoin; an lastas i ndathanna, an chuid is luachmhara in ór.

