



RON LEONARD

ARTIST STATEMENT

Art is everywhere, we are surrounded by it, the only question being whether we are prepared to recognise it and experience it. I make it my aim to spend part of every day doing nothing but looking, around me and inside me. As an artist I have to remember that what may have the narrowest meaning to the person who creates it, becomes a Rorschach in the imagination of those who view it. Viewers of a work of art, including the creator, in trying to decipher its mystery, progress from being voyeurs to excavators, digging into their memories for what they may recognise from their own experience. In creating art or viewing art, the payoff comes in finding a lost part of oneself, and how we emotionally react to that discovery. A work of art most certainly has as many meanings as it has viewers, and that meaning alters with each new viewing and each new remembrance.

"Guantanamo" was created during the lead up to the 2007 federal election. It is part of my response to the then sitting government's support of the use of torture, and support of the regimes who employ torture as a means of punishment and solicitation of information from political prisoners.

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Over the past decade I have been represented through Byron Fine Art Gallery, Byron Bay and Barebones Artspace, Bangalow. During this period I have done a number of private commissions. I also sell work through private agents in Melbourne, Adelaide and overseas.