

Ben Foster

An Ode to Pink

November 22 - December 2

Ben is a self-taught sometimes-artist based on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales. A graphic sensibility based in guerilla art techniques and large repetitive mural motifs combines with a love for abstracted landscape forms. His works explore natural processes and transitional states with bold colour and shapes. Ben has twice exhibited at the Corner Store Gallery, been commissioned for large scale public murals and has been involved in a range of group street art shows.

These three works are the culmination of an idea that's been bouncing around in Ben's head since his last exhibition at the Corner Store Gallery in 2016 - Native. These panels were used to create some of the monoprints forming the basis of that body of work, where scribbly gum paths created on bark by the scribula moth larvae were recreated by a programmed CNC router, an act of homage and of robotic deconstruction. After the prints were created the panels were cleaned and stored in a kind of hibernation both physically and mentally until opportunity arose.

The relief panels have been brought to light in these new works and reconsidered as a surface to reflect Ben's new environment, while maintaining a direct link to a different space and time.

Ben utilises methodical processes to help establish the parameters for the works, which then allows him the space to instinctively apply colour drawn from abstract elements of his landscape.

These paintings complete the arc of the idea hidden away for over half a decade, spanning life states and locale.

"Pink always seems to creep back into my works, I can't help it, there's just something so satisfying trying to reach for those colours that pop up in the pre sunset and push further from pale peach into bruised eggplant tones as the light fades. I guess my take on pink is fairly broad, I'm looking at those tones that live alongside and complement it rather than focus on a pure pink-ness. I love the idea of where pink lives, and it's everywhere."

