



CHRIS O'DOHERTY aka REG MOMBASSA
Carbone and Trunks After Fire, 2009
charcoal and coloured pencil on paper
68 x 51 cm
Courtesy the artist and Watters Gallery Sydney



MATT HUTTLESTONE
Noon, 2009
acrylic on canvas
100 x 84 cm
Courtesy the artist and Raft Art Space

CONCEPTS

Bushfires are frequent occurrences in the Australian landscape, particularly during the hotter months of the year, Fires can be intense and devastate the landscape causing widespread loss of trees, damage habitat and lead to loss of life.

Studying

Compare the two versions of bushfires represented in the two works above.

Look at the viewpoint of each artist and the materials each have chosen.

Making

Find an image of an Australian landscape after a bushfire.

Draw this landscape on a sheet of paper.

Using paint or charcoal create a work exploring your feelings and thoughts about the fire.

ABOUT REG MOMBASSA

Chris O'Doherty aka Reg Mombassa takes a more light-hearted approach to landscape that captures the spirit of the country. His landscapes with anthropomorphic objects, mixed mythological figures and archetypal landmarks form the hybrid of identities that inform Australia. The lone carcass of a burnt-out car in a burnt-out landscape is as much of our identity as is the barbecue worshipping suburban dweller, fighting off flies in Sydney. (A Gebers, Curator of Landscape as Knowledge)

Artist and musician Chris O'Doherty (also known as Reg Mombassa) was born in Auckland New Zealand in 1951 and migrated to Australia with his parents and brother in 1969. He attended the National Art School, Sydney 1969-70. He returned to art school in 1975 and obtained his diploma of painting. Reg formed rock band Mental as Anything in 1976 with four other art students; they have performed around the world and held group art exhibitions. Reg has exhibited paintings, drawings and prints at Watters Gallery Sydney since his first exhibition in 1975. He is also a graphic designer, working as a freelance artist and with Mambo Graphics. Reg performs with his brother Peter in the band Dog Trumpet.

ABOUT MATT HUTTLESTONE

This painting was produced 'plein-air' in bushland about 70 klms south of Darwin and is part of a series called *Hardies Creek*. Hardies Creek is a small tributary within the greater Berry Springs catchment area, approximately 80 kilometres south of Darwin. For most of the year it is nothing more than dry stones and cracked mud. However, scattered along its way are a few small (semi) permanent waterholes. These provide vital yet precarious relief and nourishment for a great variety of life forms.

He comments on his work in the AGNSW: *In this painting I wanted to describe the way the creek meanders through and around the burnt tree stumps and Livistonia palms as if slivering its way down to the greater water source of Berry Springs, seeking its own form of nourishment. I find this landscape brutally harsh and stark, yet bursting with life and spirit – difficult but beautiful. And I kind of love it.* - Matt Huttlestone (AGNSW)