



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper

Ben Woolfitt

Situation, Positioning, Location

May 25 - June 24, 2006



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Artist Catalog, 'Ben Woolfitt - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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Director: Richard Fogarty
www.headbonesgallery.com

Ben Woolfitt

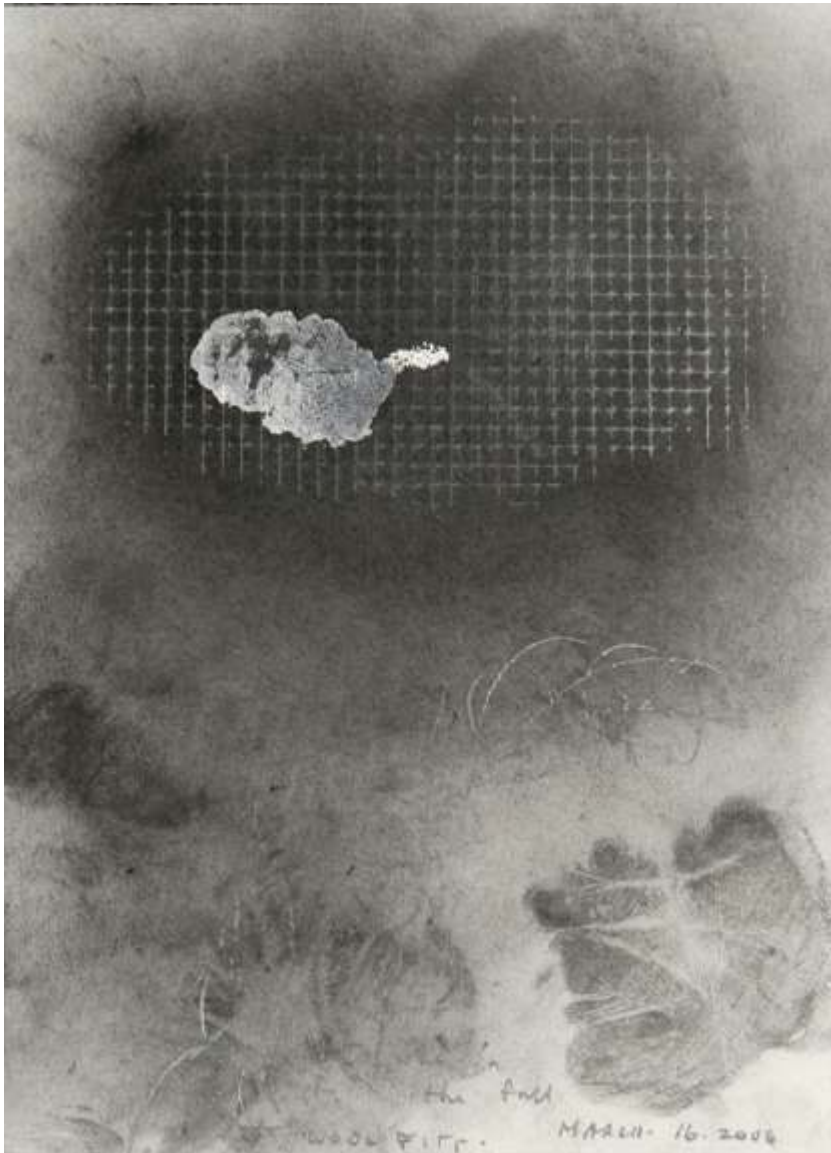
Situation, Positioning, Location

The drama of a thunder storm with forks of lightening, the dense dark muffle of graphite with the impressions of leaves, netting and threads forming map-like areas over which silver clouds lurk or spinning tornadoes whisk upwards to explode like fireworks - Ben Woolfitt's drawings evoke rather than depict.

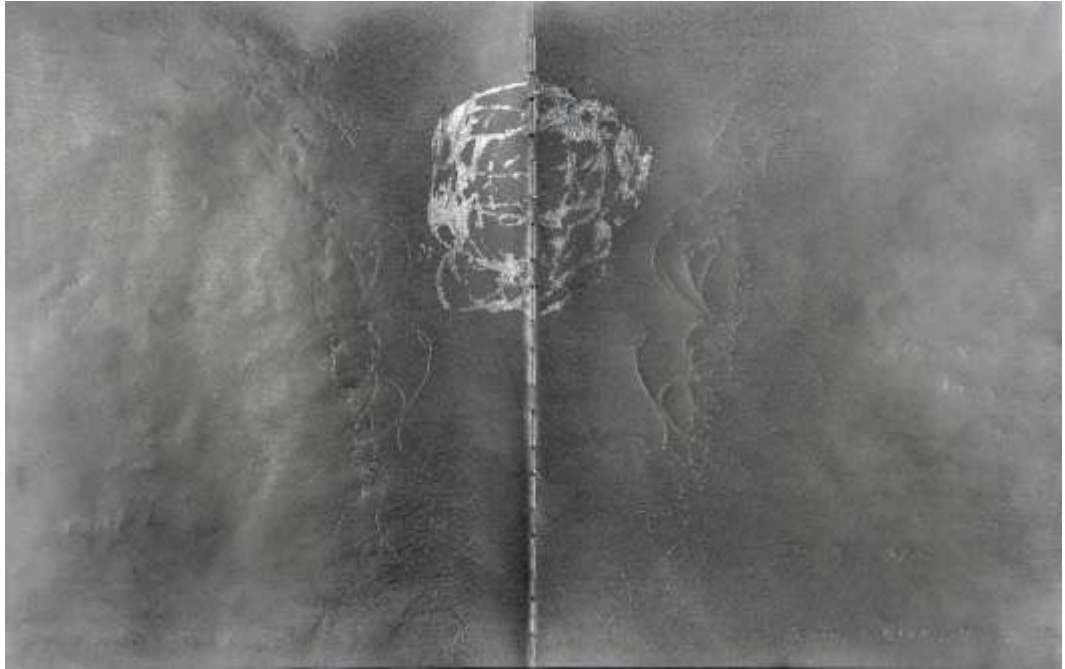
When coal dust is rubbed until it turns silver, alchemy is at work. Ben Woolfitt's wizardry runs through his practice. In the early dawn light he opens his great book and sparks ignite with the rubbing and scribing of abstract diagrams. The result begs to be deciphered as if the dark, rubbed impressions are pulsing beneath the surface of the paper, a nether illumination. There are illusions to magic in the imagery as well, the poof of the wand, a strike of lightening as cosmic forces come into play or the faint light cast by an elfin leaf glowing with fairy dust. There are stellar associations, sci-fi and x-ray perceptions. Art, comparable to the philosopher's stone, is the transformative tool that changes base matter into gold. Ben Woolfitt turns graphite into silver. From his early morning consciousness, he plants the seeds of impending dusk. These works, torn from the binding of the daily-kept journals of images (each morning, as the cities sleep, he records the nuance of dreams beginning to cool) are like an anthropologist's link to an undiscovered civilization or the interpretations of a priest as he ponders the resurrection.

The drawings shed. The graphite is still fresh and falls on the handlers. The pages have a brittle aspect as if they have been rubbed enough and can take no more manipulating or as if they are black and blue from bruising. Their surface is nearly reflective for Woolfitt has burnished the surface until it glows like coal before it ignites into flame. They are poetic pieces. They demand a poetic explanation. They beg for protection.

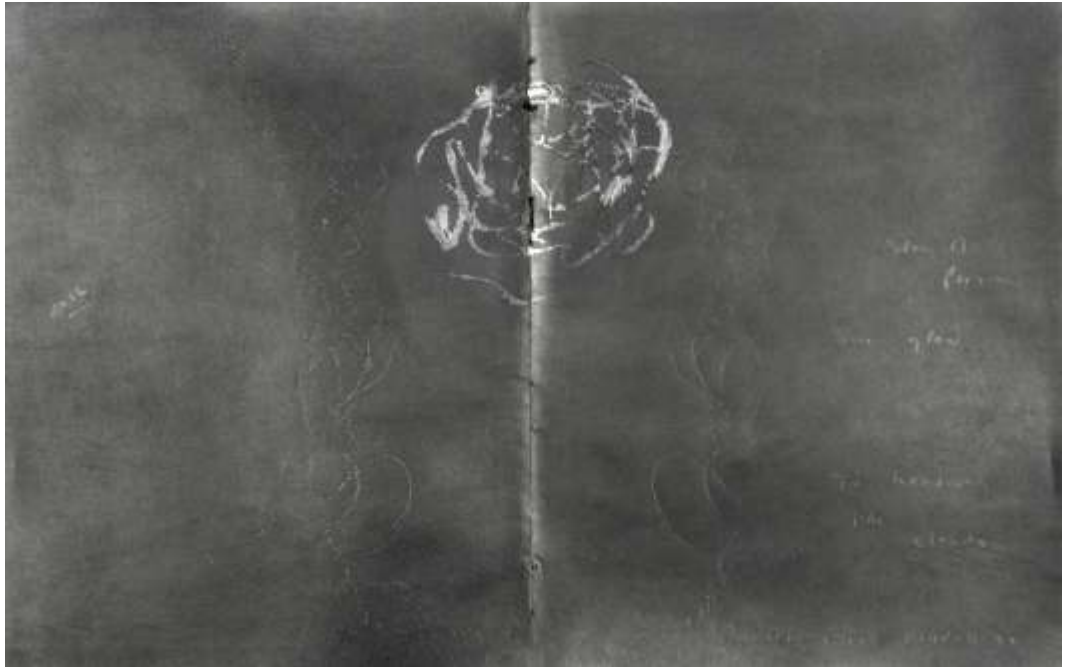
This is an abstract moment, a confrontation with sorcery funneling the inclination to make sense of natural phenomena. The work thrills with the materials. The silver foil glitters. The pencil ensorcells. The situation is difficult to pin down, the positioning is abstract and the location is universal.



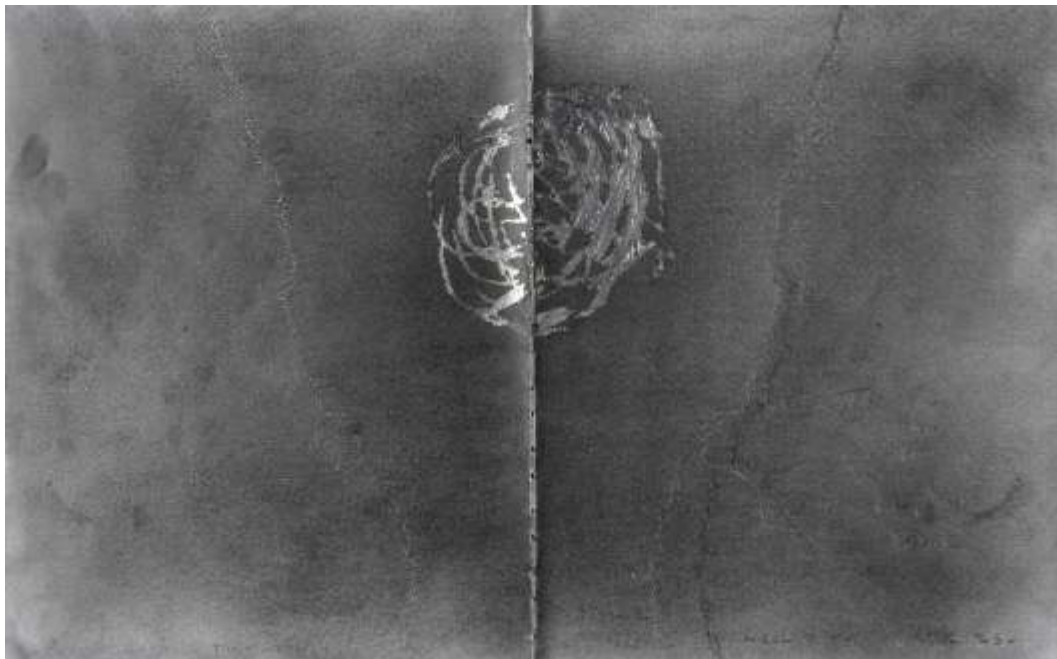
It Was In The Fall
Graphite and silver foil on paper
14 x 11 in
2006



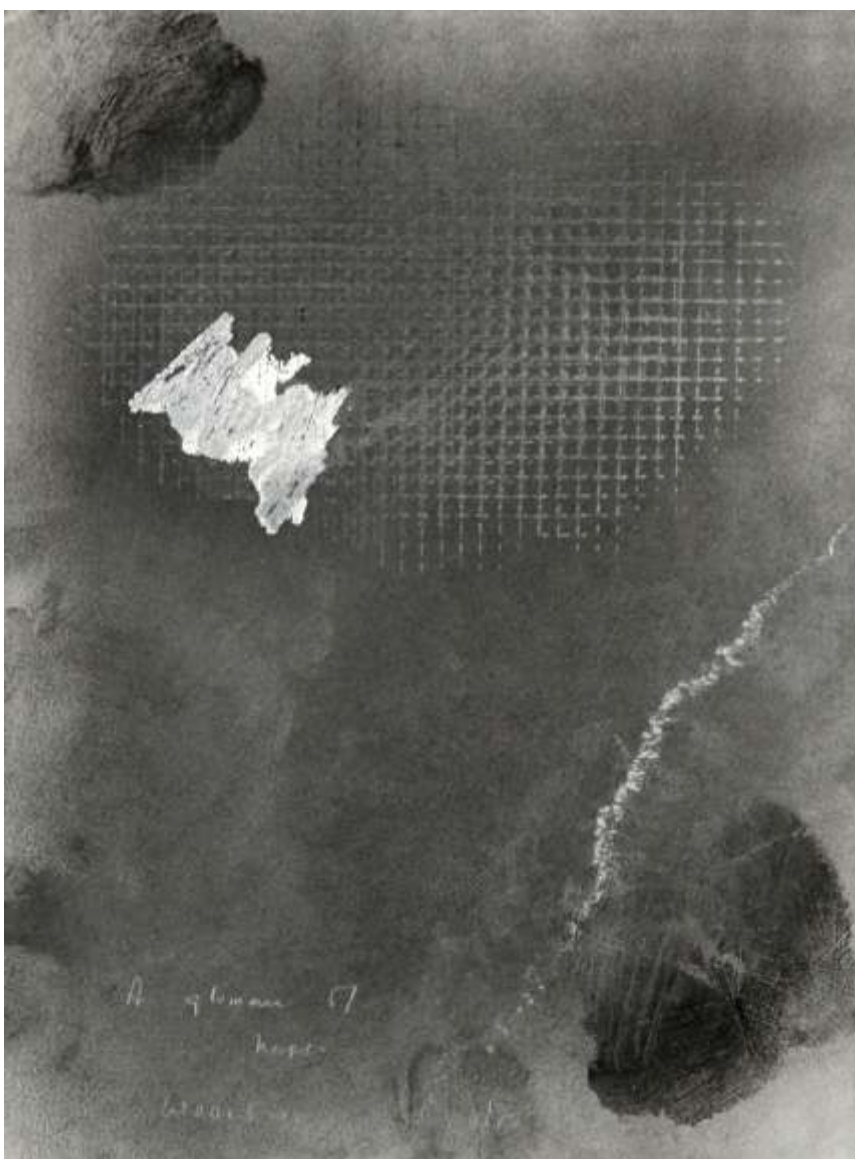
Sun of Persia Series
Graphite and silver foil on paper
14 x 22 in
2006



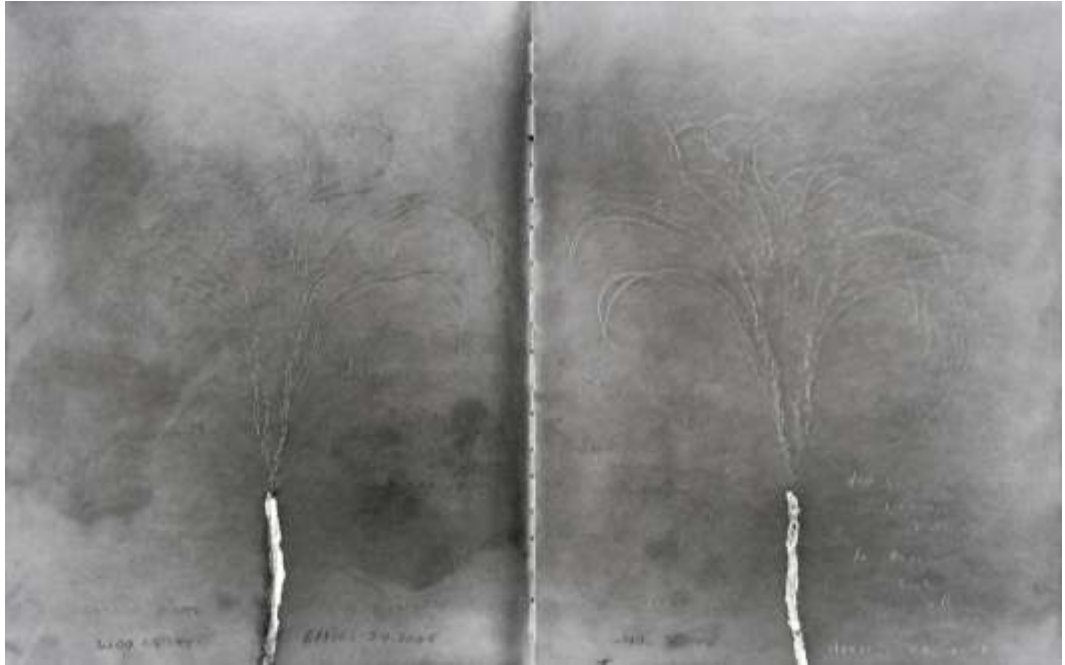
To Honour The Clouds
Graphite and silver foil on paper
14 x 22 in
2006



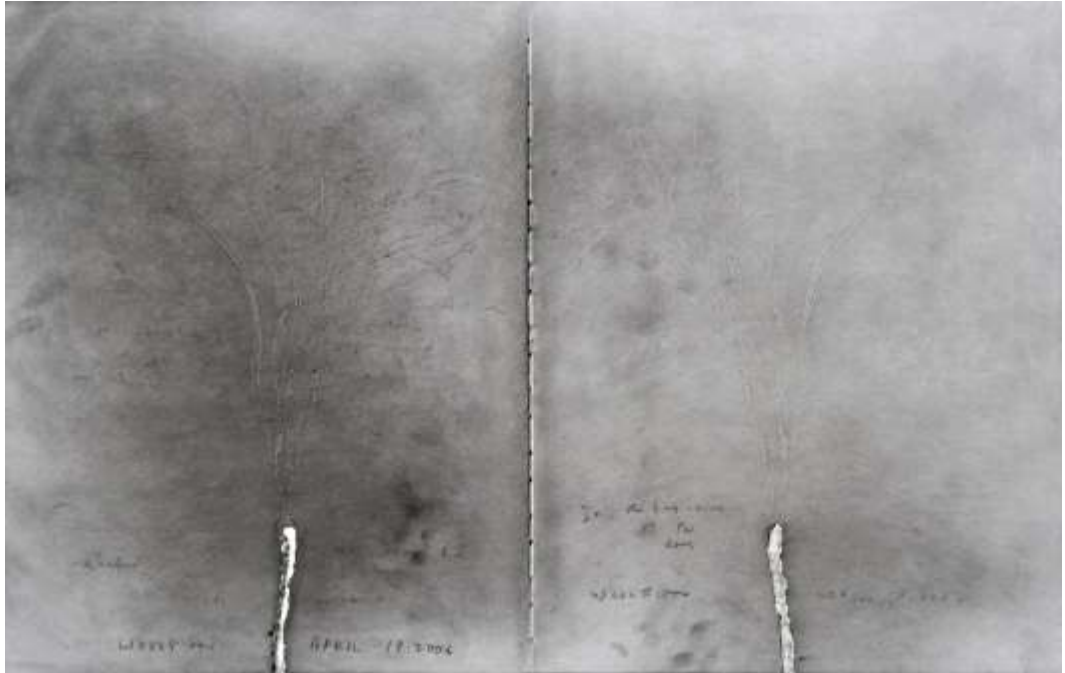
The Sun and The Moon
Graphite and silver foil on paper
14 x 22 in
2006



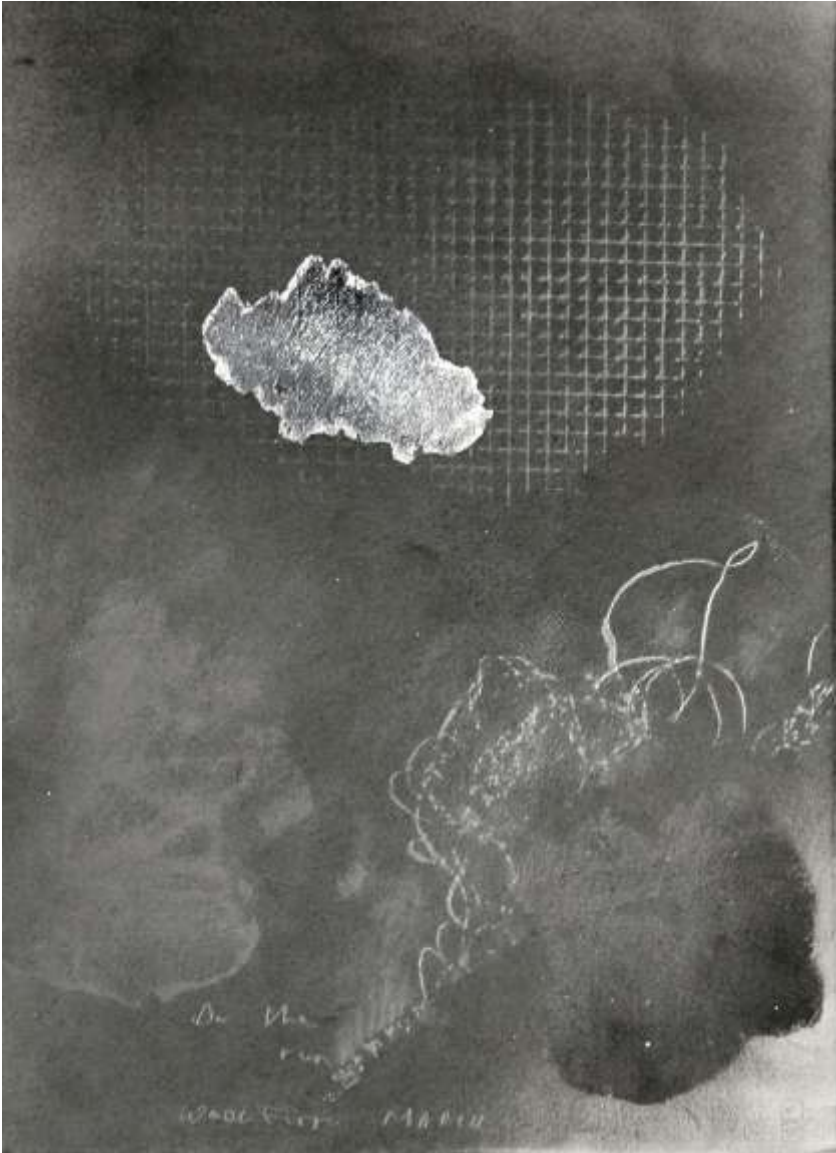
Glimmer Of Hope
Graphite and silver foil on paper
14 x 11 in
2006



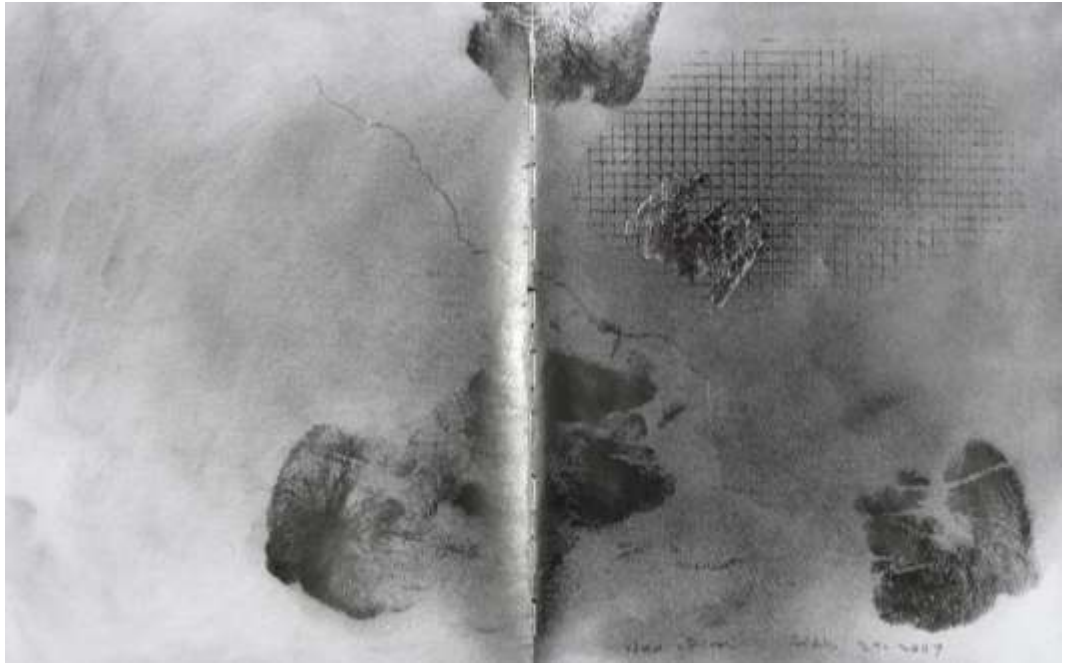
And We Are Getting To Know Each Other
Graphite and silver foil on paper
14 x 22 in
2006



In The Beginning Of The Day
Graphite and silver foil on paper
14 x 22 in
2006



On The Run
Graphite and silver foil on paper
14 x 21 in
2006



In A Moment
Graphite and silver foil on paper
14 x 22 in
2006



Through The Light
Graphite and silver foil on paper
14 x 22 in
2006

Ben Woolfit

Solo Exhibitions

- 1973 Toronto Center of the Arts
- 1974 Gallery O (Olga Korper), Toronto
- 1975 The New York Gallery, Rochester
- 1976 Phoenix Theatre, Toronto
- 1976 Gallery O (Olga Korper), Toronto
- 1977 Gallery O (Olga Korper), Toronto
- 1978 Vivaxis, Toronto 1979 Vivaxis, Toronto
- 1980 Wingfield, Toronto
- 1981 Vivaxis, Toronto
- 1982 Private Exhibition, Toronto
- 1987 Bowen Gallery, Toronto
- 1995 Baird Gallery, St. Johns
- 2001 Prince Arthur Gallery, Toronto
- 2002 Prince Arthur Gallery, Toronto (November 9-16)
- 2002 Carlo Alessi Unpublished, New York (October)

Group Exhibitions

- 1969 Nightingale Gallery, Toronto (Spring)
- 1970 Nightingale Gallery, Toronto (Fall)
- '70's Gallery O (Olga Korper), Toronto
- 1977 Ontario Now 2, Art Gallery of Hamilton, Hamilton
- 1978 Genesis, Toronto
- 1982 Leanne Hull Fine Art, Toronto
- 1983 Shelley Lambe Fine Art, Toronto
- 1984 Carol Sterne Art Consultant, Toronto
- 1987 Contemporary Fine Art Services, Toronto
- 1999 Gallery 7, Toronto
- 2001 Eastern Normal University, Shanghai
- 2001 ZYPR Gallery, Toronto
- 2001 Prince Arthur Gallery, Montreal
- 2002 Prince Arthur Gallery, Toronto

Collections

Musee du Bas St Laurent, Riviere du Loup
Hart House, University of Toronto
Robert McLaughlin Gallery
Bank of Tokyo
Hilton Hotels
Laxton, Glass & Swartz Lefranc & Bourgeois, France
Canadian Pacific Hotels, Hotel Newfoundland
Cantel Incorporated
McKenzie Financial Corporation
Citibank, Canada
Central Art Academy, Beijing
Numerous Private Collections

Teachings

1972-1980 The Woolfitt School of Contemporary Painting Founder and Instructor
1990 York University - Quality in Papers
1999 Lakehead University - Acrylic Paints
2000 Eastern Normal University, Shanghai -Acrylic Paints
2001 Shanghai Hua Shan Art Craft College
2001 Shenzhen Art Academy - Acrylic Paints
2001 Shenzhen University - Acrylic Paints
2001 Guangzhou Art Academy - Acrylic Paints
2001 Guangzhou University - Acrylic Paints
2000 Eastern Normal University, Shanghai - Acrylic Paints
2001 Shenyang University, Shenyang - Acrylic Paints
2001 Central Art Academy, Beijing - Acrylic Paints
2002 Central Art Academy, Beijing - Acrylic Paints - Four day workshop
2002 Tianjing Art Academy, China - Acrylic Paints

RICH FOG



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