

FROST R_Theatre 106067_Research Statement

The photographs produced for *Theatre* are the first instalment of what is intended as an extensive visual record of Tasmanian theatres. The work is part of a larger discourse within contemporary artistic practice that seeks to provoke engagement with place. For example the interior landscapes of Jim Dow, (empty spaces that resonate with the presence of people), the typographies of Franck Bohbot and Candida Höfer's lavish documentation of public space.

Tasmania has a long and rich theatrical history, with most significant towns in the state boasting their own theatre. Many of these buildings still exist. Some, like the Theatre Royal in Hobart remain operational; some now function as cinemas, while others have been appropriated.

Integral to the work is finding ways to portray these spaces in a manner that is sensitive to the notion of audience and performer. Theatre is essentially a relationship between performer, spectator and the space in which they come together. To facilitate this I have photographed from the viewpoint of both performer and audience. This differentiates my work from most photographic typologies where the methodology is used to encourage comparison and analysis. I seek, rather, to emphasize that unique relationship between audience and performer. Through careful consideration of the formal qualities of the medium I engage the viewer with the visceral particularities of each space. My methodology entails meticulously constructing an image from multiple photographs taken over many hours; a slow coalescing of time that encourages stillness and introspection. The work extends the nature of the photographic document by exploring the potential of the photograph to act as poetic metaphor for hidden memories of place. This was a solo exhibition that resulted in works selected by an independent panel for exhibition at the Melbourne Art Fair (an art event showcasing work from around Australasia) in August 2014.