

Artwork

Artwork by Dylan Quirk

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Simon Opit

This issue of the Graduate Journal of Asia-Pacific Studies is complemented by the artwork of Dylan Quirk, a contemporary artist based in Australia's Gold Coast. In his artwork, Dylan explores the world through video, painting and installation. His current work captures the significance of seemingly innocuous objects in informing our sense of place and identity. The works included within this issue are a selection of a wider body of works utilising oil and acrylic on canvas to provide striking and vibrant assertions of an Asia-Pacific identity alongside a sense of urban decay and the quotidian. Such themes are certainly sympathetic to the research articles within this issue. Several of Dylan's works were recently exhibited at the Redlands Art Prize held at the National Art School of Sydney. Describing this series of paintings, he commented that "when the flowers are flattened onto the same plane as the industrial detritus, a tension emerges, critiquing and amplifying their inherent sculptural materiality". The natural world and life of the flowers is juxtaposed with suggestions of urbanity and decay through the fading strokes of paint on which they are placed. The urban future of the Asia-Pacific is closely tied into this juxtaposition as the deleterious sides of urbanisation extend far out to the horizon.

Since graduating from University of New South Wales in 2012, Dylan has been the co-director of Firstdraft Gallery in Sydney and is currently co-directing the Walls Contemporary Art Space on the Gold Coast.



Fumes / Frangipanis, Dylan Quirk, Oil and Acrylic on Canvas, 2013. 445 x 520.



Tessellation: Concrete Entropy, Dylan Quirk, Oil and Acrylic on Canvas, 2013–2014.

940 x 1250.



Civil Decay (Pink Hibiscus), Dylan Quirk, Oil and Acrylic on Canvas, 2013, 550 x 640.