



MARIE LE LIEVRE

BAGGAGE 2008

## An Accessory for Abstraction - The Paintings of Marie le Lievre

In Marie le Lievre's paintings, Freudian theories of psychosexual sublimation arise from deep shadowy pools of paint to mingle with totemic embodiments of power, prestige and the desire to shop.

On its twisting, side stepping, back flipping acrobatic journey from the caves of Lascaux to the Tate Modern it could be said that painting has gathered "a lot of baggage". The accumulation of significant-and-influential movements or celebrated-but-now-redundant stylistic shifts (often overburdened with dubious commentary and pseudo-philosophy) can weigh heavily on a contemporary painter's shoulders. To make this load a little easier Le Lievre's solution has been to take the notion of "baggage" literally and bundle the legacy of colour field painting into handbags. Or, to be more precise, painted shapes that resemble handbags.

This figurative intervention coupled with amorphous abstract forms not only repackages and updates colour field's stylistic tendencies but also brings to the fore psychological and sociological associations. Notions of neuroses, consumerism and gender are revealed alongside already present symbolic and phenomenological readings fostered by an abstract veiling and layering of colour. Leaving paintings that are open ended and engaging enough to both invite and yet defy final analysis.

Robin Neate



## Biography

- 1996 B.A Criminology. Victoria University, Wellington.
- 2006 B.F.A Painting. University of Canterbury.
- 2007 B.F.A Honours. (First Class) Painting. University of Canterbury.
- 2008 M.F.A Painting. University of Canterbury.

## Awards and Scholarships

- 2006 Bickerton Widdowson Scholarship
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- 2007 Third place. Mazda Emerging Artist Award.
- 2008 Ethel Rose Overton Scholarship
- 2008 Graduates Scholarship
- 2008 Masters Scholarship

## Exhibitions

- 2005 SOFA Campus Gallery, Christchurch.
- 2006 Graduating Artists Show, COCA Gallery, Christchurch.
- 2007 Contemporary Emerging Artists Show, COCA Gallery, Christchurch.
- 2007 Honours Show, SOFA Gallery, Christchurch.
- 2008 Selected Finalists, James Wallace Award, Convention Centre, Auckland.
- 2008 Selected Finalists, James Wallace Award, The Dowse Gallery, Wellington.
- 2008 The Pretty Show, High Street Project, Christchurch.
- 2009 Masters 08, SOFA Gallery, Christchurch.
- 2009 Baggage, Brooke/Gifford Gallery, Christchurch.
- 2009 Cloud Nine, Christchurch Art Gallery Te puna o whaiwhetu, Christchurch

Canvas 600 x 600mm, Oil on Canvas





Left to Right

'Elephant in the Room', 1200 x 1200mm, Oil on Canvas

'Mixed Bag', 300 x 300mm, Oil on Aluminium

'Hide Behind (Elephant Bum)', 1200 x 1200mm, Oil on Canvas

'Overnight (Baggage)', 900 x 900mm, Oil on Canvas

'Pot calling the Kettle', 600 x 600mm, Oil on Canvas

Photography: Chris Kitson

Design: [chrispanry.co.nz](http://chrispanry.co.nz)



