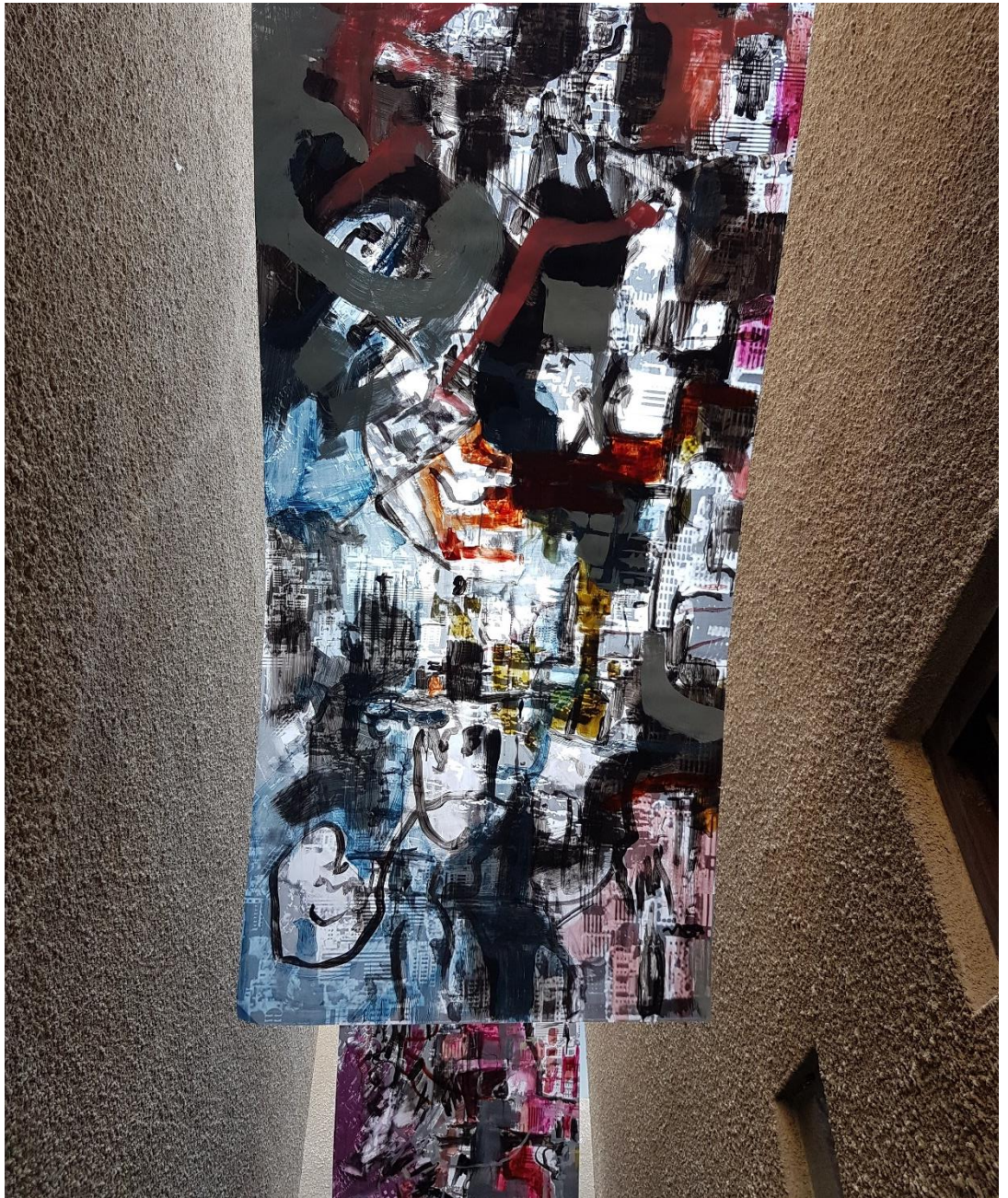


Richard Ketley

Creekskyde

Al Fahidi District
Dubai

March 2018



Creekskyde is a play on words - the association of the Al Fahidi District to the *Creekside* district of Dubai, *sky* – my works combine aerial images (Dubai is probably the only city in the world observed by more people from the air than from the ground), and *skype* – a reference to the modern connected world in which the citizens of Dubai connect to their family and friends that are so far dispersed.

As with all my works they are intended to work as abstract exercises that operate at the boundary of cognition, providing visual hints of maps and photographs but which operate as elements within the abstract scheme of the works.

The works explore the idea of “installation drawings” that combine my different perspectives of place, from the air and from the street, with my desire to combine drawing and painting. The works are executed on sepia film that is a robust plastic medium that enables the work to be installed out of doors but is also translucent and can be viewed from two sides.

These works are very much autobiographic – the culmination of experiments in practice over the last two years, and my experience of Dubai. The images are both printed aerial photographs worked till they are unrecognisable and imagined maps formed by the flow of paint. They reflect both the experience of the world from the air and in the bazaars.

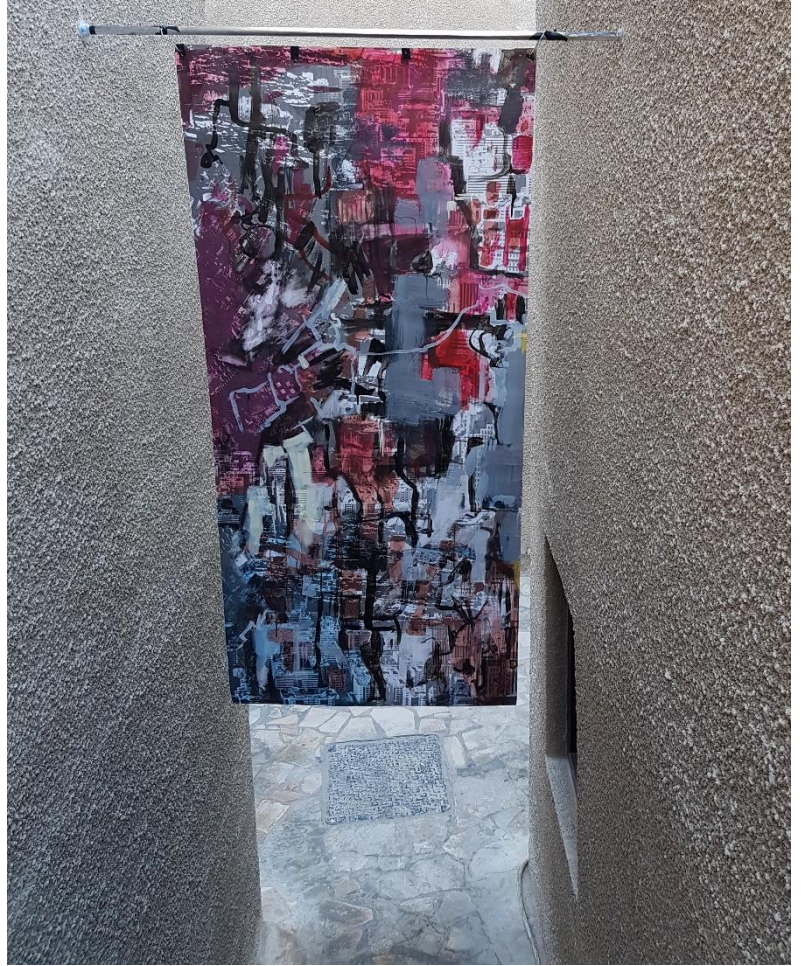
Installation

The works were installed in two narrow corridors in the Al Fahidi historic district of Dubai. Each panel is approximately 184 cm high and 84 cm wide. Given the lightness and durability of the works they are suspended and “float free” from the ground as I often do – being at once paintings and installations.

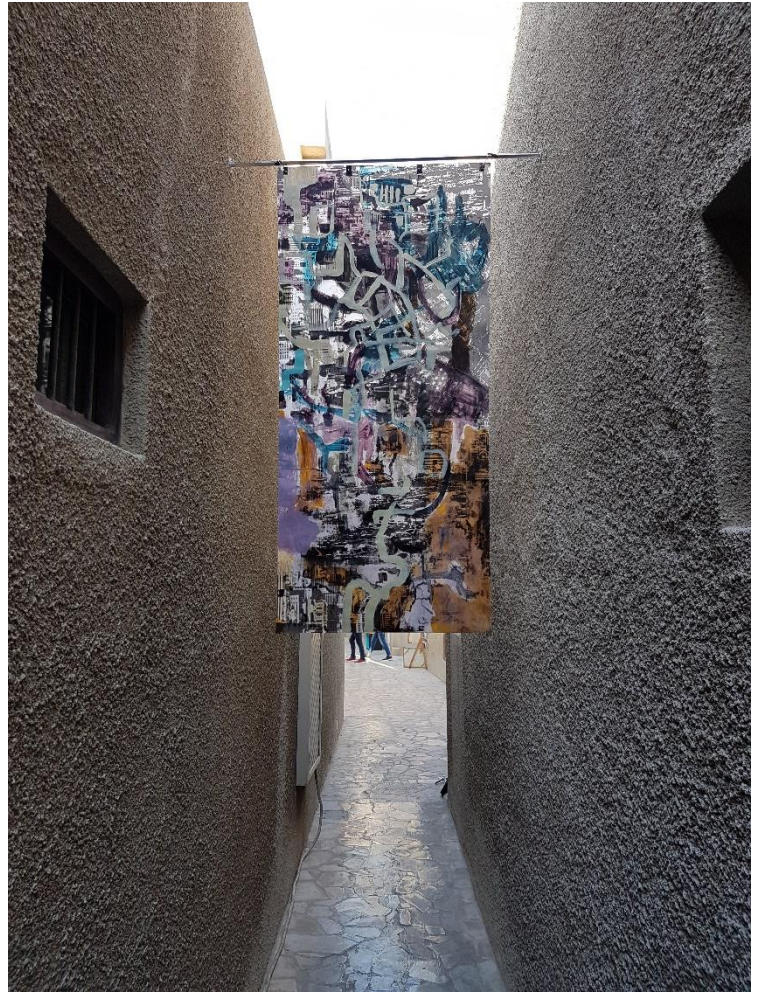
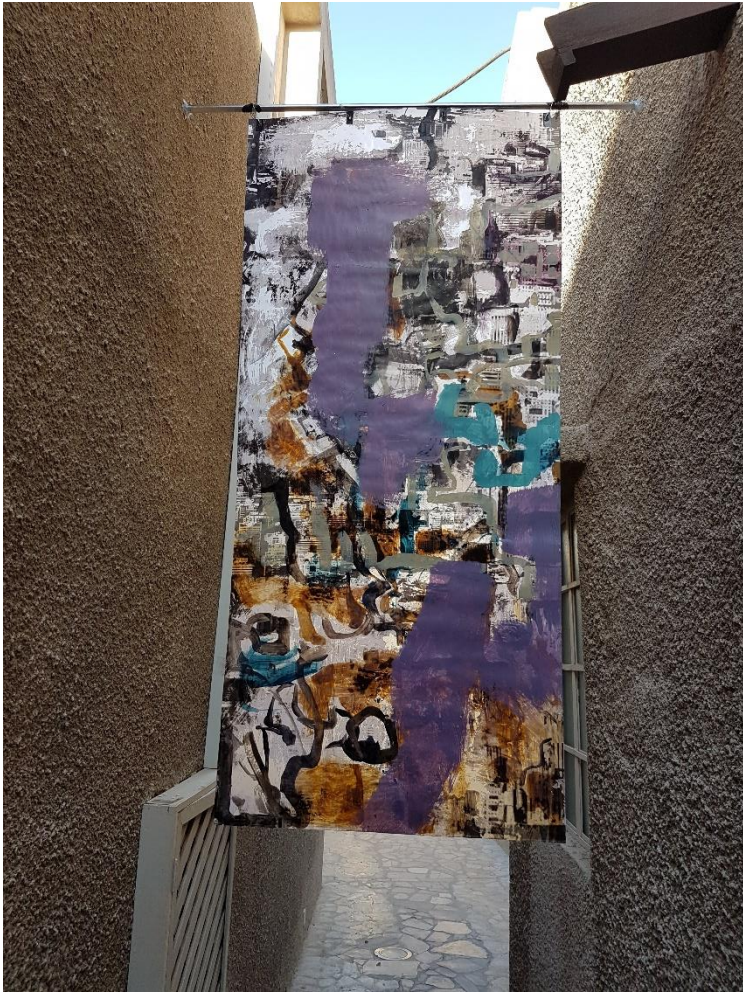


Panel I

Acrylic and charcoal
on drafting film
840 x 1800 each



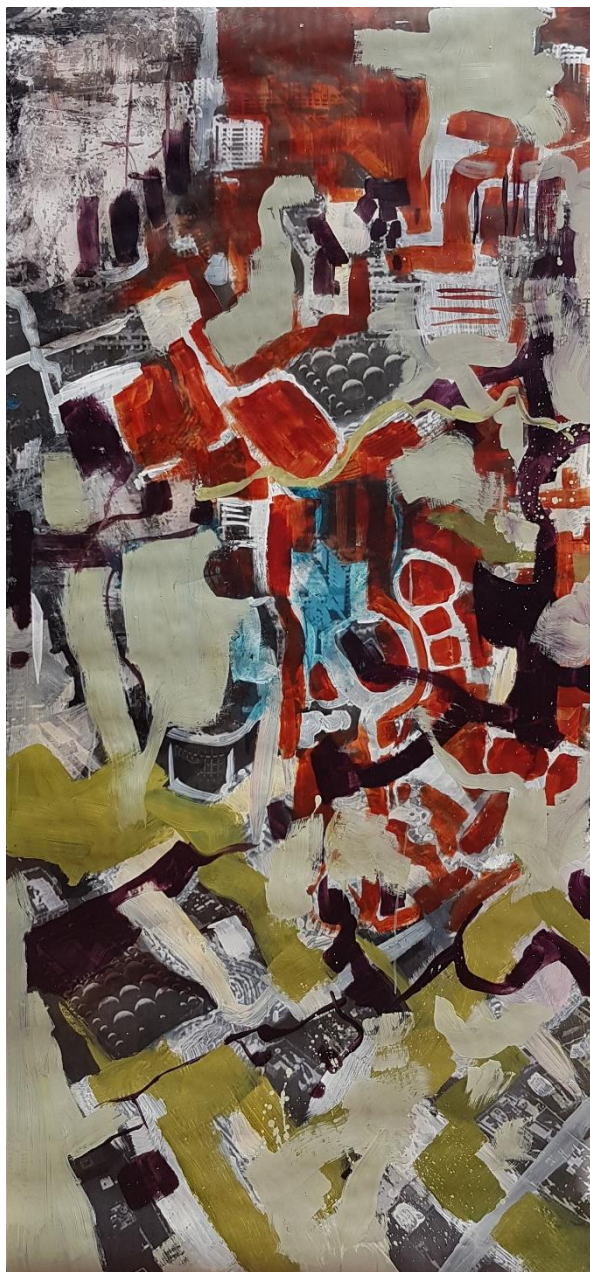
Creekskyde Installation
Al Fahidi Historical District



Creekskyde Installation
Al Fahidi Historical District



Panel I
(reverse side)
 Acrylic and charcoal
 on drafting film
 840 x 1800 each



Panel II

Acrylic and charcoal
on drafting film
840 x 1800 each





Panel II
(reverse side)

Acrylic and charcoal
on drafting film
840 x 1800 each





Panel III

Acrylic and charcoal
on drafting film
840 x 1800 each



Panel III
(reverse side)
Acrylic and charcoal
on drafting film
840 x 1800 each



Panel IV

Acrylic and charcoal
on drafting film
840 x 1800 each



**Panel IV
(reverse side)**

Acrylic and charcoal
on drafting film
840 x 1800 each



Creekskyde Installation
Al Fahidi Historical District



Creekskyde Installation
Al Fahidi Historical District

**Artist's statement**

I am interested in formal elements of painting and drawing inspired by the world around me and the many countries I visit. I am also interested in finding meaning where others do not - in the fall of light on oil tankers off Barr Beach, in the chaos of the shacks of Kampala and in crowded taxi parks. My art is a search for perfection not often found in life.

I am fortunate enough to travel widely in the Middle East and Africa, but I have not found aTahiti , a landscape populated with Venuses and primary colours. Instead I have found landscapes covered in construction sites and tin-roofed shacks, and peopled by humanity sweating as trucks are loaded with voluminous bundles. But within these spaces there is balance and form and structure - all elements that are abstracted in my paintings.

Profile

Born in 1964, Richard Ketley has painted since he was at school and held his first solo exhibition while still a student at Hyde Park High School. During his early career, he exhibited at Artists in the Sun and at the Sandton Gallery, Johannesburg, and participated in a joint exhibition at the National Gallery in Kampala, Uganda. Some of his most recent work has been shortlisted for the SA Taxi Art Award (2015 and 2016). During 2016 he held a joint exhibitions of his work in Lagos and Johannesburg and featured in the Joburg Fringe. In 2017 his work featured at the Art Africa Fair and he held a solo exhibition at 70 Juta Street. In 2018 his work has featured in Art makes Water, Kampala.

Richard travels widely and divides his time between Dubai and Johannesburg.

He is represented by the XVA Gallery in Dubai.