



THE FIRE IN THE MIND Diana Vives

Over the last two years, fire has been the theme of my Master's in sculpture at the Mafeking School of Fine Art, which resulted in this body of work.

My project set out to make fire stronger again. I have chased it through time, across physical and psychic landscapes. I have considered the link of the imagination, and the connection between time and matter, through the air of things and the precise landscape in a world of entangled matter.

Fire, ever since it was first harnessed, has played a pivotal role in shaping human cognition and desire and, consequently, in reshaping the Earth. My creative process brings the two issues through a lens that is sympathetic to new materialism, locational paradigms and neo-animism.

The materials with which I have worked were all mediated by fire and are freighted with metaphor. Some, like igneous rock, originate from the Chthon, like clay or metal, are shaped by it. Wood, however, is central to my material concerns. Trees and timber, accorded in our culture to the work of the carpenter, human, flesh, or the roots of individuals and collective

... things with them that have been complexed through the process of selection and appropriation.

... I have formed them from the knowledge of earth and water that seems to register ideas of creation and destruction. Memory and imagination, vision and culture, past and present, the unknown, the all elements of knowledge, originate from a single source, but their meaning is related to form, which has been constructed through the elemental forces of the natural world, they responded and transformed matter in order to nurture and conserve, and through the gift of consciousness and language to understand and express our position and potential, individually and as a species.

As to heat, this is an inherently projective force. It is not a thing, but an element, but a process of transformation that can bring the life, the death of the material, and through the process of burning, all elements of matter, through the work of the earth, the work of the sun, and the work of the wind, to be transformed into a new form, and address for all, that will be the cultural and material world, making the space open, available, and to be used.

The Fire in the Mind of Diana Vives