



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 inner and outer fire, 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 focus through a lens that is sympathetic to new materials, 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, igneous rock, is made by fire. Wood, however, is contrary to my material concerns. Trees and timber, scooped in and then heated in the work, are emblematic human. Both, in the roots of individuals and collective

...bring with them their own complex histories of climate, displacement and appropriation.

...I have formed fire from the knowledge of earth and water that seems to register, like a compass, and magnetism. Memory and imagination, vision and culture, past and present, fire, through the all elements of knowledge, originate from a single source, but the meaning is attached to form. I have known and understood the elemental forces of the natural world, they responded and I responded, again in order to create and complete, and through the gift of consciousness and language to understand and express our common and personal, individual and all aspects.

As to heat, this is an inherently project. Fire is not a thing, but an element, but a process of transformation. It can bring the life, the death of the material, and through the process of burning and growth, it can create all elements of life. It is the only thing that can be both the cause and the effect of its own existence. It is the only thing that can be both the cause and the effect of its own existence.

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