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[EXHIBITIONS](#) Ken Smith *Recent Landscape & Still Life Images* 22nd September 2015 - 10th October 2015



Ken Smith Artist Talk 26 September 2015



Ken Smith
Yellow, Blue, Green, Mt Martha 2014
oil on linen
76cm x 137cm

Through an intense scrutiny of the world around him, Rick Amor Drawing Award winner Ken Smith records with stunning precision his own formal arrangements set against the endless expanse of the sea and sky. These cool light suffused paintings allow for contemplation through their serenity and stillness. Manipulating line, shape, texture, composition, tone and colour, time is contained within Smith's practice.



Ken Smith
Island 2015
oil on canvas
13cm x 91cm , (41.5 x 119.5cm framed)

Ken Smith

Recent Landscape & Still Life Images

Looking out with an impartial gaze, a vast blue sky announces a bright day ahead. From this elevated position the eye can see for miles and everything is crisp. Looking in toward a private interrogation; soft light and velvet tones conjure up a curious arrangement of things.

Ken Smith's landscape and still life paintings are full of calm horizons; delicate glimpses of a world seen in equal measure. While they are unapologetically straightforward in their choice of subject matter and repeated iteration of visual elements, their underlying design reveals a complex and systematic exploration of light and its reception. Observe the endlessly nuanced shades of blue present within any one of Smith's airy landscapes full of sky, sea and glassy reflections. The sheer range of azure present signals the tireless determination of an artist in search of ocular truth.

Principally motivated by the incisive question, 'How does light reveal the forms, colours and atmospheres of the visible world,' Smith has dedicated years to capturing something of the tonal nuances created by both natural and artificial light. Working directly on site, out in the weather, or from the controlled environment of his studio, Smith maintains a consistent focus on the essence of an event, letting details of surface and tone respond to the shine and shadow of light falling across it. Seen with utter clarity, there is nothing tentative or



Ken Smith
Still life, red, yellow, blue 2015
acrylic on panel
35cm x 32cm , (68.7 x 65.4cm framed)



Ken Smith
Still life, yellow, brown, grey 2015
oil on canvas
39cm x 67cm , (67 x 96cm framed)



Ken Smith
5 forms 1 2012
coloured pencil on paper
44cm x 70cm , (79.5 x 94cm framed.)

uncertain within his treatment, nothing clashing or jarring. Each image possesses an even tempo, reflecting a considered moment in time.

These wide horizons, be they the intersect of ocean meeting sky or the clear surface of a table top and the void beyond, offer an experience of stillness, of slowing down and simplification. Within the layers of weather, ocean, landmass and the man-made, there is no suggestion of the highly emotive, sentimental or aggrandising. Rather, Smith's images quietly adhere to an ethos of clear-sighted, objective examination.

The factual is systematically and discretely broken down into a series of geometric elements, temporarily suspending their reality in an effort to accurately document what is present. Whether addressing the variously textured elements of a coastal panorama or the smooth curvature of a cylinder, his images reflect a rigorous and sustained interest in perception. Inside this seen and speculative instant, Smith interrogates its "underlying sense of structure and order." With a keen sense of patience Smith navigates the tension between visual assumption and concrete reality, before meticulously reconstructing the parts back into a stable and unified whole.

Fluctuating between spacious outward views and a more intimate meditation, these meticulous works draw attention to a felt experience of subtlety, both within the act of looking and within the mind's eye. It is a pleasant space to inhabit, and one in which Smith invites us to linger.

By Phe Luxford, 2015

[KEN SMITH PROFILE](#)
[DOWNLOAD BIO / CV \(PDF\)](#)

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Ken Smith
Still life yellow, brown, grey 2015
coloured pencil on paper
55cm x 75cm (83 x 102 cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastline 2015
oil on panel
16cm x 30cm x 5 panels (51 x 243cm framed)



Ken Smith
Bayside, 2 Mornings, 1 Afternoon 2015
oil on three panels
32cm x 32cm each panel, 64.5 x 165cm framed



Ken Smith
Still life, yellow, green, grey 2015
oil on panel
25cm x 45cm , (54 x 74cm framed)



Ken Smith
The road by the sea 2015
oil on canvas
25cm x 45cm , (54 x 74 cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 1 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 2 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 3 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 4 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 5 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 6 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



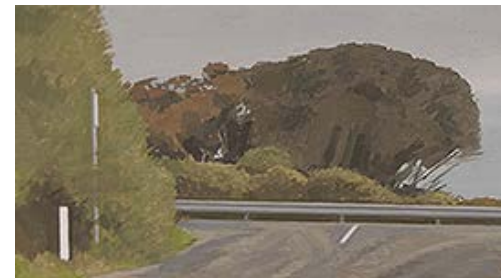
Ken Smith
Coastal 7 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 8 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 9 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 10 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 11 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 12 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 16 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 13 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 14 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



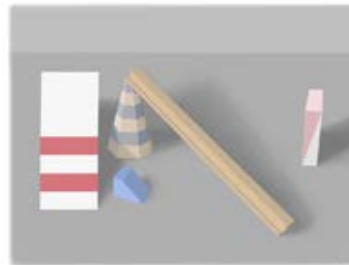
Ken Smith
Coastal 15 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 17 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Coastal 18 2015
oil on panel
10cm x 18cm , (37 x 44cm framed)



Ken Smith
Light Objects 1 14 2014
Archival pigment print 3 of 3 editions
18cm x 24cm framed 83 x 64cm



Ken Smith
Drawing Objects 5 2014
Archival pigment print
24cm x 18cm framed 83 x 64cm

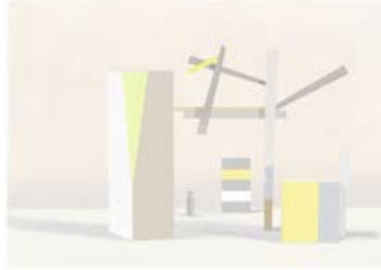


Ken Smith
Drawing Objects 6 2014
Archival pigment print 3 of 3 editions



Ken Smith
Light Objects 1 15 2015
Archival pigment print 3 of 3 editions

24cm x 18cm framed 83 x 64cm



Ken Smith
Light Objects 2 2015
Archival pigment print 3 of 3 editions
16cm x 23cm framed 83 x 64cm

16cm x 23cm framed 83 x 64cm



Ken Smith
Coastal Properties 2015
Archival pigment print 3 of 3 editions
12cm x 23cm framed 83 x 64cm



Ken Smith
The Road to the Sea 1 2015
Archival pigment print 3 of 3 editions
13cm x 23cm framed 83 x 64cm