

Basic Detail Report



The Earth (A Special Place)

Date

1989

Primary Maker

Kelleher, Julie

Medium

Oil on perspex

Description

"I have chosen The Earth as my special place because I believe the whole to be greater than the sum of the parts. The American Indian Chief Seattle said in 1839: "He (the white man) treats his mother, the earth, and his brother, the sky, as things to be bought, plundered, sold like sheep or bright beads. His appetite will devour the earth and leave behind only a desert. " Our earth is vulnerable. It must be appreciated and protected from further abuse,

because everything interconnects (in a geometry like that present in the Book of Kells): the ocean, office workers, insects, babies - all are affected. In my painting I envisaged her unharmed in a time before she was plundered for metals, oil, wood, land, whale oil, rhinoceros horn ... all in the name of the development of civilization. Since the matriarchial societies of neolithic times (9000 - 7000 BC) have been replaced by a global patriarchy, authoritarian systems of government have dominated the earth. Due to the class system which such governments create (and on which such governments, through exploitation, continue to exist) man's sense of warlikeness has drastically increased. If there is any sense of impending threat in my painting it relates to this issue but is seen from the standpoint of early man and woman's genuine struggle for survival. Societies with class systems are the most warlike in contrast to the collectors, hunters and lower agriculturalists who are the least warlike. The idea for the painting stemmed from a visit to a stone circle and surrounding area, near Riasc, in Co. Kerry. The imagery is drawn from my imagination, and the sense of fear and loss which I felt in this place - The starry sky, through my dolphin tears Drewa horse in the inky night. " Julie Kelleher

Dimensions

Object: 80 × 60 cm