

Now [] here Exhibition Statement

Custodians, guardians, stewards, let's meet here, let's retrace the steps that advanced us so abruptly into 'civilization,' with all its spoils, and let's revisit the other paths we could take, from nowhere to here.

Seoras: They're just a pile of stones, you know.

Helen: No, Seoras, they're like life. Like our life. It's as if you have to understand every single hand-carried stone in order to understand the total cairn.

From *Camster*, a play by Scottish writer George Gunn.

Tumuli

Tumulus *noun*: (plural tumuli) A mound of earth and stones raised over a grave or graves. Tumuli are also known as barrows, burial mounds, or kurgans, and may be found throughout much of the world. A cairn, which is a mound of stones built for various purposes, may also originally have been a tumulus.

The spatially illusionistic paintings, *Tumuli*, offer a synthesized version of a cairn—an assembled mound of gathered rocks, hand-built stone by stone through the centuries by locals and visitors to memorialize their journey or commemorate and connect with the spirits of their ancestors. *Tumuli* plasticizes these ancient stone piles via saturated color, forced perspective, and simplified shapes to create a spare, simulated landscape.

Lithic Scatter

Lithic Scatter *noun*: A surface scatter of cultural artifacts and debris that consists entirely of lithic (i.e., stone) tools and chipped stone debris. Lithic scatters can represent a palimpsest of activity, sometimes containing several technologies from different archaeological periods.

The individual pieces of *Lithic Scatter* take their visual cue from the standing stones that dot the landscape of Scotland. Many a lone Pictish stone stands in a field, carefully mowed around by the farmer. At Achavanich, a horseshoe shaped placement of enigmatic bronze-age stones has weathered 4000 years of storms. One can only guess at the original meaning, though likely ceremonial. Similarly, *Lithic Scatter* conjectures the monument of ceremony.

Primordial Soup

Primordial Soup *noun*: A solution rich in organic compounds in the primitive oceans of the earth, from which life is hypothesized to have originated.

Primordial Soup imagines the birth of civilization, drifting in on islands, full of hope and enterprise.

Artist Statement, 2019

Landscape, and how we manipulate it to fit preconceived ideals or corporatized molds, is familiar territory for my art practice. Whether I am exploring the urban environment, with its homogenized grid of rectangular blocks, or examining how culture frames and re-frames landscape, I remain responsive to how our perceptions of the world and our sense of place are shaped by human design.

My work takes the form of a shifting, often transitory, monument that runs a discourse between the capitalization of the natural environment and our widespread experiences of displacement and disconnection. As we traverse the land, we may find our search for utopia leads us on a journey that offers little more than a façade of our ideals. Perhaps we need to go beyond the surface, past the representation, and back to the 'authentic' to find it.