



**CITY
ART
DEPOT**

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Hours: Mon – Fri 8:30am – 5:00pm, Sat 10:00am – 2:00pm

A publication produced to accompany the exhibition
Transitional Landscapes at City Art Depot.

Cover image: Mitchell Bright, *Cleared Top Soil, Retirement Village Construction, Wigram, 2016*, 1/10 Inkjet Print on Hahnemuhle Gloss Baryta

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M/K PRESS

Mitchell Bright

Transitional Landscapes

26 September – 21 October 2017

The motorway will have two lanes in each direction, separated by a central median with a wire rope safety barrier. There will be no direct access from private properties onto the motorway. Landscaping for the project is designed to complement the existing environment... while acknowledging the generally rural environment of CSM2. The project has a gently curving alignment open to views of the Southern Alps and Port Hills
 – NZ Transport Agency, ‘Christchurch Southern Motorway stage 2’

Raw earth is lifted and broken in accordance with plans to improve efficiency – a well-oiled mechanism. Yet the bitumen of commuter roads hardly registers in *Transitional Landscapes*.

The photographs of this exhibition exist between expressive fine art photography and documentary photography. Visual signifiers of change locate the images within glimpses of the land’s history and future. The skeleton of a building is erected amid a barren field, white rods hold up newly installed trees. How will these spaces grow? How will they integrate into the Canterbury landscape?

These transitions are documented through a carefully curated eye. Growing up in Selwyn, Bright has been witness first-hand to the changes in landscape: the shifting of earth and carving of land for new development. These are the non-places, stripped of identity and yet to be occupied, between one thing and the next, yet these photographs ponder if the transitional has a visual identity in itself. While light browns and greens evoke the Canterbury landscapes of Bill Sutton, Rita Angus and Rata Lovell-Smith, Bright finds artificial elements, oranges, pinks and whites, within this adapted world. Large patches of sky, clear and blue, fly overhead—a beautiful day for cold spaces.

Mitchell Bright is a photographer living in Selwyn, Canterbury. He addresses the manipulated geographies of Canterbury and the South Island’s West Coast, frequently exploring them and documenting his findings with a particular interest in the ways individuals and society view and interact with the landscape. He is currently undertaking his Masters of Fine Arts in Photography at the Ilam School of Fine Arts. His works can be found in private collections around New Zealand.

The literal shifting of earth became a central focus of my work. The physical manipulation of these materials to meet our new needs resulted in vast scenes of transition; scenes where the past use of land is still hinted at, but the foundations for future use have clearly been laid
 – Mitchell Bright, 2017

1. *CSM2 Weedons Rd Interchange Construction, 2017*
 24 x 60 inches Diptych 1/3 C-Type Print on Fuji Archive Paper
 \$1025 unframed
2. *CSM2 Overbridge Construction, Main South Rd, Looking East, Selwyn, 2017*
 15.5 x 19.5 inches 1/10 Inkjet Print on Hahnemuhle Gloss Baryta
 \$330 unframed - \$525 framed.
3. *Cleared Top Soil, Looking West, Selwyn, 2017*
 15.5 x 19.5 inches 1/10 Inkjet Print on Hahnemuhle Gloss Baryta
 \$330 unframed - \$525 framed.
4. *Planting next to the Curletts Rd Overbridge, Wigram Rd, 2017*
 15.5 x 19.5 inches 1/10 Inkjet Print on Hahnemuhle Gloss Baryta
 \$330 unframed - \$525 framed.
5. *Storm Water Reserve, CSM1, Looking West, 2017*
 15.5 x 19.5 inches 1/10 Inkjet Print on Hahnemuhle Gloss Baryta
 \$330 unframed - \$525 framed.
6. *Cleared Top Soil, Retirement Village Construction, Wigram, 2016*
 15.5 x 19.5 inches 1/10 Inkjet Print on Hahnemuhle Gloss Baryta
 \$330 unframed - \$525 framed.
7. *Dividing Barrier Main South Rd and Coles Fields, Rolleston, 2017*
 15.5 x 19.5 inches 1/10 Inkjet Print on Hahnemuhle Gloss Baryta
 \$330 unframed - \$525 framed.