

## JOHN ALBERTS – ARTIST’S STATEMENT

Back in art school, a much admired senior wandered through the second year painting studio and, stopping in front of my work, was heard to mutter “this guy will do ok if he just follows his nose”. I was never quite sure what he meant, and some thirty years on still don’t know. Nevertheless I’ve always tried to follow his advice - and my eyes if not my nose.

My work is a “mash-up” as it were of creatively misunderstood influences (some well known and others obscure, too numerous to list) and some things by the side of the road that grab my eyes when my mind is busy elsewhere. If these “things” share anything in common it’s a peculiar, heightened sense of volume in both object and space, usually picked out by a low, raking light. In these grabbed moments I often experience a pleasant confusion of scale, mixing the toy-like with the monumental. Later, in the studio, whether I’m working with still-life objects or landscapes, my approach is much the same, and invariably directed toward those somatic sensations.

There are times when I think Sisyphus would smile at this ancient, futile but endlessly beguiling effort; to somehow re-present on a flat surface the odd and occasionally epiphanic sense of being and seeing in a corporeal world.