

In 2018, Richard McWhannell made a trip to New Mexico and visited a town called Truth or Consequences. It was the catalyst for this body of work.



Studio, February 2019 (left)

More Miles than Money (2018) oil on canvas board 1220 x 1540mm



Truth or Consequences. It's a name that conjures images of the old west - of Kit Carson and Wyatt Earp, of Geronimo, of fearsome Apache, Comanche and Arapaho, of cougars, rattle snakes and coyotes. In truth, it's a town named after a 1950s radio game show.

Thinking about NM with Joseph Alach (2017) oil on canvas board 1220 x 1537mm



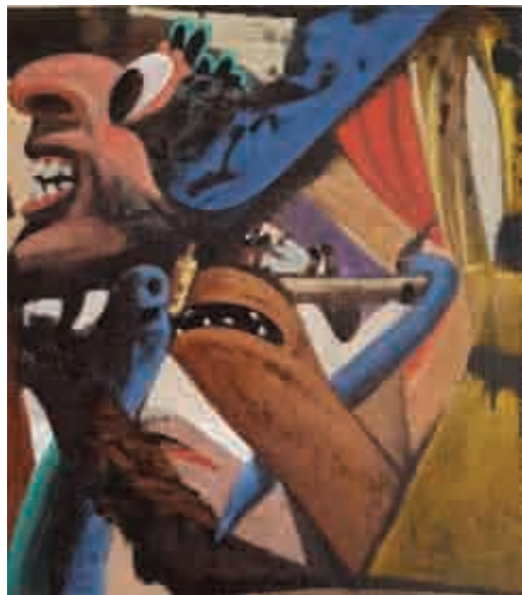


Truth, consequences, strange goings on. Trees bending over, cows lying down. Like a Gothic perspective on Arcadia. Pastoralism with a twist.

Sunday School Picnic at Sandy Bay (2017-18) oil on canvas board 1220 x 1540mm

A Picture for Oum Kalthoum (2018-19) oil on canvas board 895 x 1220mm





The Night Train (2017-18) oil on canvas board 400 x 350mm
A Horse with No Name (2018-19) oil on canvas board 1220 x 1537mm





At first, this journey to New Mexico was more tourism than any thought of the painted things that would precede or spill from it. But that's what happened. And that's why I name the show thus ... It's the truth and the consequence.

Richard McWhannell statement March 2019.

The Burial of General Belgrano (2018-19) oil on canvas board 700 x 900mm



Cowboy Sabbath (2017-18) oil on canvas board 450 x 600mm
Are We Nearly There Yet? aka, Call of the Wild (2017-18) oil on canvas 707 x 832mm



McWhannell's world is disturbingly anarchic and chaotic. It is a place where violence and enigma intersect with instances of calm and beauty. There is also a dominant impression of dynamic vitality with which a turbulent world without certainties or coherence is apprehended and articulated.

Peter Simpson, Art New Zealand, 2015.

Richard McWhannell was born in Akaroa, New Zealand in 1952, graduated from Ilam, University of Canterbury in 1972 and has been a practising and exhibiting painter for the past three decades. He is represented in public collections in New Zealand including Auckland Art Gallery Toi a Tāmaki, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna Waiwhetu, and in 2016, he was the subject of a major retrospective of his work at Pah Homestead, Auckland.

Richard McWhannell
Truth or Consequences
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Auckland Art Fair

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