

GAFFER

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Terri Brooks Artist Statement

My abstract paintings draw imagery and mark making from the urban environment including aged and weathered walls, street signage, graffiti, architecture, and construction sites. In the studio during the painting process there is a dialogue between the canvas and a contemplation of my environment filtered through veils of reflection and memory.

Phe Luxford, 2012

‘The space between image and object is blurred in the sculptural paintings of Terri Brooks. In many ways a flâneur, Brooks absorbs the physical qualities of the built environment, delighting in the accidental textures and material surfaces of concrete, building materials or bitumen roads. She is not a landscape painter, but works to reflect the truth and beauty of the utilitarian surfaces around her. Her canvases offer a sort of spatial dislocation or inverse trompe-l'œil of reality, as isolated sections of the everyday are reborn within the gallery setting. Like the ruins of antiquity her remnants are ‘palpable, not pictorial...their presence shifts with vitality and springs forth into awareness’.ⁱ As replicas of the factual world, in all its decay and innate ordinariness, these paintings subvert the idiom of preciousness and make the certain uncertain.’

ⁱ Ginsberg, R., *The Aesthetics of Ruins*, Rodopi Amsterdam, 2004, p.158