

ART FORUM

August 17 2007

John Barbour is an artist and Head of Research and Postgraduate Studies at the South Australian School of Art. John's art practice takes many forms, including painting, drawing, object-making, photography and embroidery. He is interested in creating and exploring 'heterogeneous' forms and situations using strategies of diffusion, dispersal, multiplicity, and opposition - often through reference to architectural forms.

'Over the past eight or ten years, John Barbour has developed an art practice which can only be described as simultaneously intimate yet estranged. Intimate in that the objects and images he presents require our closest attention to bring to light their inherent qualities and associations. Estranged in that they appear, paradoxically, as distanced and remote - as if seen from afar. This push and pull of opposites: subjective and objective, near and far, speech and silence, architecture and its demolition, presence and absence: of the high and low, delicate and brutal, carries over into his use of materials and forms and is deeply characteristic of his practice. The small-scale models of architectural interiors, delicate embroidered panels of text mantras and fragments, ironmongery assemblages and mirrored volumes, speak of ordinary human needs and fears, the hidden and unsayable and the need to say.'

-Bronwyn Platten, Experimental Art Foundation

John Barbour



Lost Routes... (installation, Yuill/Crowley, Sydney, 2001)
Cardboard, glue, gesso, oils. Variable dimensions.

12.30 pm Dechaineux Lecture Theatre
Tasmanian School of Art-Hobart, University of Tasmania