

SPECTRAL RIVERS, 2000-1, 6 panels

Maurice Cockrill



REF: 11926

Height: 244 cm (96.1")

Width: 366 cm (144.1")

## Description

Polyptych : six separate canvases

Each panel height 244, length 61cm, total length 366cm

Price on application

" The anatomy of the landscape - the River estuary, fields and woods, clouds, hills and mountains beyond is forever in flux, due not simply to the capriciousness of light and weather, but also in regard to whatever I, the artist, bring to it and hope to find there." Maurice Cockrill

- Spectral Rivers comprises six separate canvases offering a rare opportunity to acquire a complete series by the artist.
- It has the flexibility of being hung together closely, more spaciouly or independently in different positions within a single interior or multiple spaces.
- The work was exhibited at the Royal Academy, London in 2001.
- Cockrill's studio overlooked the Conwy estuary and Spectral Rivers is a sequence of direct, unique responses to the spectral properties of the river topology alluding to different layers of consciousness ; the spirit of the waters perhaps flowing in some alternative dimension, or phantom river-system beyond the limits of our physical world.
- The 'spectral' of the title has another meaning as the canvases are ordered according to the colour sequence of the spectrum (though there is no indigo, in a subtle side-stepping of a purely schematic arrangement).
- The colours used also reflect the affect of different light conditions on the river.

' Matisse said, 'Exactitude is not truth' . My pictures are the landscape transfigured - separate utterances , complete-in-themselves although partial, that grope towards an understanding and expression of the spirit of this piece of the world that has held poetic meaning for me for over half a century. ' Maurice Cockrill

- The initial impulse for Spectral Rivers came from the 16th century Japanese painter-poet Koetsu and started with a group of exploratory drawings illustrated below. Taking the the form of longs scrolls worked on the floor in which the script like design was laid down in black, white, dark red and grey on a ground splashed with gold powder.
- In the Spectral Rivers paintings, bold, angular signs are intertwined with more delicate filament, creating an effect of subtle amelioration.

" I'd rather be changing shape than just be doing the same thing time after time." Maurice Cockrill

Rivers were important to Cockrill evoking birth, maturity, decay and regeneration, the cycles of life that echo these central human preoccupations.

This series of fluid, abstract paintings evoke nature, the elements, the progress of the Conwy river to maturity and the scars that humans cut into the land.

The serpentine and lyrical curves in the individual compositions reveal Cockrill's preoccupation with organic forms, especially water and the phases of a river flowing around the canvas.

The bravado in the sweeping paint and scintillating colour is Cockrill's signature, and there is perhaps no

artist who handles paint with a more fluid skill

LITERATURE :

Illustrated on the frontispiece and discussed p24-5, Maurice Cockrill, Marco Livingstone & Nicholas Alfrey