

Kristin Hatland – Artist Statements, Mar 2013

C9, 10, 11

Individual artworks from “the Ship of Theseus” - where “last chance to see is part thereof. My previous collections have been studies into the philosophical ideas and theories that contemplates truth and reality. This collection is no different.

In my previous series ‘Plato’s Cave’ the question concerned truth and reality outside in the light, contrasted with shadows and falseness in the cave. This series continues this theme. ‘The Ship of Theseus’ asks a question about truth and reality: if something exists and all of its parts are replaced, is it truly, in reality, the same thing?

‘Things’ in our world are perceived through our senses. One of our senses is that of sight. Colour in sight is driven through the cells contained in the eye composed of rods and cones, of which the cones provide us with colour vision. If, as happens, our body parts are replaced, and new cells replace the old, are we the same, and are the visions that comprise our sight through those cells the same? In abstract this idea is most easily expressed as the artwork projects differences for all individuals, the colours arranging themselves in shapes, hues and modulations that drive the idea of evolution, adaption, change, maturation and yet, possibly the consistency of identity that the ‘Ship of Theseus’ challenges.

The title “last chance to see” - simply referenced Douglas Adams observations linked to “The Ship of Theseus” with his book “Last Chance to See”. You can read more about him (and the ship of theseus) if you go to this link: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ship\\_of\\_Theseus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ship_of_Theseus)

Additionally, apart from the artist's statement - it is important for me not to share my studies and thoughts in their entirety and prejudice your interpretation - hence, the choice of abstraction. I value the viewers own thoughts and his/her own projection which happens when a viewer interacts with a piece of art. So the artwork is much more than just the artist's research and thoughts; your thoughts and ideas are of equal importance.

C49 Coercion, “Sacked 4 inappropriate use of force against a sandwich” is a real case. My partner represented the plaintiff in the case [Schriiffer v First Security Guard Services Ltd \(Auckland\) \[2012\] NZERA 234; \[2012\] NZERA Auckland 140 \(20 April 2012\)](#) From this point, I was inspired to look at the legal process, the State and how the State interjects itself constantly into everyday life. The question was...how does it get away with this? How are so many seemingly oblivious? The answer was “Plato's Cave” truth and falseness, light and shadow. My research into this was approached from a philosophical point of view and hence adopted the title.