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**Post-picturesque:  
From the Sublime  
to Land as Collector**

A exegesis presented in partial  
fulfilment of the requirements  
for the degree of

Master of Fine Arts

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# Post-picturesque: From the Sublime to Land as Collector

Jessica O'Brien 2017



# Abstract

In *Land as Collector*, I examine the notions of the picturesque and the sublime and its origins in the Romantic era. I investigate how this concept has evolved and transformed over four centuries to the present day, and how 'the view' is now acknowledged in contemporary New Zealand.

This exegesis – *Post-picturesque: From the Sublime to Land as Collector*, explores the idea that 'landscape', and 'the view' are a constructed concept. My thesis will follow the development of the idea of the view from the seventeenth century to the present day. Aspects examined include how changing ideas and focus on the land in society have been viewed and interpreted by artists.

I will look at the work of artists from different areas of contemporary and historical practice in order to show my understanding of the varying notions of the concept of 'landscape'. In my artistic practice I have used a specific landscape (site) to experiment with and show how a range of photographic processes can express my changing ideas around this 'landscape'. The results will show my understanding of the concept of *Post-picturesque: from the Sublime to Land as Collector*.

My journey led to a change in focus from looking at the Sublime landscape to *Land as a Collector*. This transformation of methodology followed the discovery of artefacts in the land I was studying and a comment about how they became critical.