

## **“The Southwall Variations”**

**Tony Carter**

### **Artists Statement**

Place is space infused with meaning. Space is physical location, geography and biosphere. Experienced through the senses, space becomes more than just physical. It becomes a part of personal identity. At all life stages, sense-triggers have evoked potent memories which have come to lie at the heart of my personal visual narrative.

The memories accompanying notions of place are clear and meaningful, but not necessarily contiguous or fully formed – they are fragmented by time and separation. But they recur persistently. In my experience they are accompanied by visual cues which by themselves, don't make complete sense. However, a language builds up around those cues – a visual language - whose elements include fracture and void, the edge or meeting places between things, negative space, transparency and opacity, light and shadow, juxtaposition, reflection – phenomena which have their own powerful metaphorical associations.

My project has been to collect and catalogue those “fragments” – the visual cues - which historically and persistently emerge in my experience of place and to arrange them into schemas on a flat surface using form, colour, layering and masking. My expectation of the outcome is nothing more than curiosity at what might emerge.

The works in this collection represent, and are motivated by, experience - they have come about as a result of engagement with a physical world of spaces, senses and things. It could be speculated that, individually, experiential relations with place are a microcosm of collective archetypal human experience and provide a mechanism for us to assimilate our place in the order of things.

My paintings' titles almost always come from my thoughts or preoccupations - maybe something I've read – while the painting is in progress.