



Andrew Blackwell

1951 –
Lives QLD

Nautique 2000

Plastic debris and Plexiglas assemblage

Redland Art Gallery Collection. Acquired in 2005 with Redland Art Gallery Acquisition Funds.

Originally presented in the Redland Art Gallery exhibition *Tidal and Sea Treasure = Enviroscapes*, Andrew Blackwell uses objects collected from the shores of Moreton Bay. The impetus behind Blackwell's collecting is not so much concerned with examining discourses regarding human activities but rather collecting for Blackwell is more as means to a representational end. The sea possesses a poetic agency and readily we attach ideals of romance and nostalgia to its image.

The objects which Blackwell collects are essentially neither nostalgic nor romantic. Yesterday's fluorescent coloured milk carton and last week's chewed up plastic straw become artefacts of a new order. It is interesting then that even though he is acutely concerned with the declining state of our local water ways, he presents his collected refuse in such a way as to elevate its value. Our own rubbish is something we should treasure so that it doesn't end up on our local shore lines, polluting our natural environment.