



## ANDREW McILROY

Andrew McIlroy has completed studies with Melbourne, Monash and Swinburne Universities and the Julian Ashton Art School. He has exhibited widely in solo and group exhibitions in Australia and the USA. In 2006 McIlroy was a finalist in the ANL Maritime Art Prize, the North Sydney Art Prize and was selected for the Landcom International Artists Project. After an acclaimed sell-out exhibition in 2007 McIlroy embarked on an extensive study tour of Europe. Andrew McIlroy's work is part of numerous public, corporate and private collections including Cisco Systems; Benson Partners; Howarth Australia; Landcom; and the Prince of Wales Hospital, New South Wales.

### AXIAMODERNART

1010 High Street Armadale VIC 3143  
phone 03 9500 1144 fax 03 9500 1404  
email [art@axiamodernart.com.au](mailto:art@axiamodernart.com.au)

[www.axiamodernart.com.au](http://www.axiamodernart.com.au)

#### Gallery Hours

Monday – Friday 10.00 am to 6.00 pm  
Saturday & Sunday 11.00 am to 5.00 pm

#### COVER

As Light Comes, 2008  
Oil on linen  
154 x 137 cm



## ANDREW McILROY

### BREAKING LIGHT NEW PAINTINGS

#### INVITATION

Opening and reception for the Artist  
Wednesday 16 July at 6.30 pm

**AXIAMODERNART**



ANDREW McILROY BREAKING LIGHT

*"This is what a picture should give us... an abyss in which the eye is lost, a secret germination, a coloured state of grace... lose consciousness. Descend with the painter into the dim tangled roots of things, and rise again from them in colours, be steeped in the light of them."*

Paul Cezanne

In *Breaking Light*, Andrew McIlroy has created a series of potent cloudscape that convey the type of emotional intensity and immediacy usually associated with modern abstraction through surprisingly traditional means.

Employing the methodical glazing technique of the Dutch tradition, McIlroy achieves the density and depth of his clouds through a meticulous and labour-intensive layering of transparent glazes, rather than a quick application of a single dense film of opaque paint. Simultaneously, he's managed to produce almost weightless pictures that evoke the ethereal and amorphous qualities of the fleeting moments which characterise the natural world – light breaking through a storm cloud, or smoke rising off a firebreak.

While the artistic method for achieving this effect is extremely time-consuming – according to McIlroy there are "many, many hours in each work and the process truly requires the patience of a saint" – it is only through this uncompromising technique that the artist believes he is able to achieve his goal of capturing for the viewer an authentic experience of being *in* the landscape rather than providing us with merely an accurate representation of it.

Accordingly, we become active participants rather than passive observers in relation to these works – drawn in by the atmospheric vortex of the painting which the artist achieves through a deft manipulation of the tonal values of a narrow palette.

McIlroy's commitment to such a methodical artistic practice has paid off recently with a series of sell-out shows in both Sydney and Melbourne. In his latest works, this artist again achieves his aim of producing works of art with modern resonance that nevertheless remain faithful to the tradition of the Masters. As he says: "I hope to make people pause for just a moment. My inspiration is simple. To create a beautiful contemporary painting which is tangible, enduring and familiar to the viewer... without reacting against European influences or composition."

**Carrie Miller**  
Feature Arts Writer

ABOVE  
**Ascent**, 2008  
Oil on linen  
183 x 168 cm