

JEREMY DICKINSON

Petty Crimes

Exhibition Catalogue

Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle

2000



Jeremy Dickinson's meticulous paintings of toy vehicles explore the intricacies of childhood obsession. The artist remembers as a child looking out of his bedroom window making drawings of the vehicles driving by.

These miniature paintings clearly represent a way of engaging nostalgically with the past and there is an implicit invitation to the viewer to join him. The chips and marks on the vehicles are evidence of their play history. One can envisage hours spent either in massive play sessions with mates or alone absorbed in choreographing a vast collection on the bedroom floor.

However, the toys are also significant in an abstract sense. His paintings of the vehicle chassis expose an unfamiliar view and the unusual stacking arrangement in a number of works is also evidence of this. What comes through most strongly is a need to order and control these possessions. Perhaps this reflects a crucial aspect of growing up, the need to make sense of the world by ordering it.

Born 1963, Halifax, Yorkshire, England
1986 BA Hons Fine Art, Goldsmiths' College, London
1983 Foundation course, York College of Arts and Technology