

Richard Ketley | Walk to Work

In the ethereal hours of early morning, when the cityscape is veiled in a misty cloak of dawn, Richard Ketley embarks on a ritualistic pilgrimage through urban terrain. These solitary walks, laden with quiet contemplation and rhythmic footfalls, form the genesis of his latest body of work, aptly titled 'Walk to Work'. Here, Ketley invites viewers to traverse the labyrinthine alleys and bustling streets of diverse cities, not through conventional landscapes, but through the kaleidoscopic lens of texture and mode.

Ketley's art traverses conventional boundaries of representation, eschewing literal depictions in favor of abstract interpretations that delve into the essence of urban existence. 'Walk to Work' is a testament to the artist's profound connection with the urban environment, encapsulating the visceral sensations, fleeting moments, and ephemeral beauty encountered during his early morning sojourns.

At the heart of Ketley's oeuvre lies a fascination with the interplay of light and shadow, form and void, as they dance across the textured surfaces of pavement, sea, and sky. Through his dynamic brushstrokes and nuanced palette, he captures the ever-shifting nuances of urban topography, revealing the hidden poetry woven into the fabric of the everyday.

Each piece in "Walk to Work" serves as a portal to a distinct cityscape, imbued with its own unique rhythm and spirit. From the broken and oil-stained pavements of Lagos to the sea-splashed cornice of Sea Point Ketley's artistic journey transcends geographical boundaries, inviting viewers to embark on a voyage of the senses.

99 LOOP



RICHARD KETLEY
Walk to Work 3: Cape Town, 2024
Oil on tracing paper
36 x 120 cm
Framed: 44.3 x 128.5 x 3.5 cm
ZAR 30,000

99 LOOP



RICHARD KETLEY
Walk to Work 5: Abuja, 2024
Oil on tracing paper
42 x 113 cm
Framed: 50.5 x 121 x 3.5 cm
ZAR 30,000

99 LOOP



RICHARD KETLEY
Walk to Work 7: Accra, 2024
Oil on tracing paper
39.5 x 114 cm
Framed: 48 x 123 x 3.5 cm
ZAR 30,000

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RICHARD KETLEY
Walk to Work 8: Sea Point, 2024
Oil on tracing paper
43 x 120 cm
Framed: 50 x 126.5 x 3.5 cm
ZAR 30,000

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RICHARD KETLEY
Walk to Work 12: Durban, 2024
Oil on tracing paper
42 x 122 cm
Framed: 51 x 130 x 3.5 cm
ZAR 30,000



RICHARD KETLEY
Walk to Work 13: Amsterdam, 2024
Oil on tracing paper
36 x 122 cm
Framed: 44 x 129.5 x 3.5 cm
ZAR 30,000

About the Artist

Richard Ketley (b .1964), South Africa.

"Painting and drawing is an integral part of my life and has been since a very early age. At the moment I am interested in formal elements of painting and drawing inspired by the world around me and the many countries I visit, and in finding meaning where others do not - in the fall of light on a sandy building in Riyadh, the chaos of the shacks of Kampala, the crowded taxi parks of Johannesburg. My art is a search for perfection that is not often found in life. I am fortunate enough to travel widely in the Middle East and Africa, but I have not found my Tahiti - a landscape populated with many Venuses and primary colours, instead, I find landscapes covered in sandy construction sites, tin-roofed shacks, humanity sweating as trucks are overloaded with voluminous bundles. But within these spaces, there is balance and form and structure - all elements that are abstracted in my paintings."- Richard Ketley

Qualifications: MFA Wits University 2018