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Joseph Mallord William Turner

The Arrival of Louis-Philippe: Shipping in Portsmouth Harbour 1844

Tate

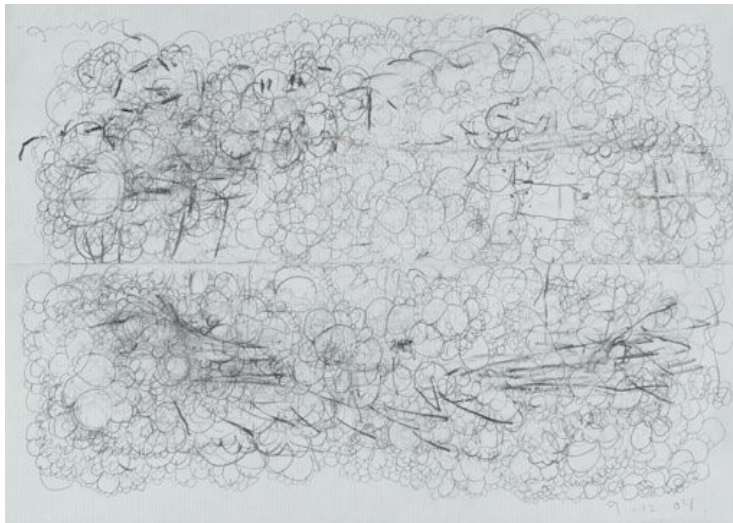
Drawn from Turner

Jeff Dennis, Chelsea College of Art and Design

Jeffrey Dennis was born in Colchester in 1958 and studied at the Slade School of Fine Art. He is currently a Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art & Design. He has exhibited internationally since 1979, including the British Art Show 3, 1990, regular shows in Milan and New York, and New Voices, an exhibition of contemporary British artists that toured worldwide 1991-7. His most recent solo exhibition was at Art Space Gallery, London, in May 2006.

His paintings embed glimpses of contemporary urban life within landscapes of processed peas, rotting fruit, Victorian wallpaper designs and, more recently, the bubblescape: an organic matrix that offers the potential for continual mutation and evolution.

A full biography may be found at <http://www.jeffreydennis.co.uk/>



Jeff Dennis
After Turner *The Arrival of Louis-Philippe* 1844

I was attracted to this drawing by its curious double-edged format, and the almost abstract approximation of the marks that conform, only with some difficulty, to a line of ships on the horizon, and waves breaking on the shore – a staccato stitching of masts, rigging and waves. This ‘encoding’ has apparently occurred out of expediency: one imagines Turner pausing briefly on a walk along the strandline, looking out to the horizon, scratching out the lines on a folded sheet pulled from his wallet, and then having a second attempt on the other half; responding to fast-moving tide, ships and weather.

Looking at the topsy-turvy sheet folded out, one is faced with clustered energy, like magnetically charged rain-clouds: reminiscent of Leonardo da Vinci’s drawing of a ‘Cloudburst of material possessions’.

Working from the drawing, I soon abandoned any attempt to transcribe Turner’s actual marks as futile and pointless: my task was to draw something that responded, in terms of nerve and movement to Turner’s.