



Of Rivers and Floods

Rob Olver

The Temporary Exhibitions Gallery

Friday 2 March – Sunday 20 May 2018

"The rivers of the Tweed Valley are beautiful. They have provided humans living here with water, food and recreation for many thousands of years. But there is a darker side to this beauty. In late March 2017 ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie hit the Tweed Valley and dumped up to 750mm of rain on the catchment in little more than 24 hours. What followed was the largest flood to affect this region in recorded history.

I was deeply affected by the scale of this natural disaster. I spent time shovelling mud in South Murwillumbah and the experience was as close to a war zone as I have ever been. About five days after the flood I began taking photographs, partly as a way of understanding my own traumatic response to the event. Unusual scenes caught my eye, like debris lodging on fenceposts and trees. I was intrigued by the coping mechanisms of the people in the flood zone, which included painting cheeky slogans on signs out the front of affected dwellings.

The images in this exhibition seek to capture the damage to the natural and human environment of the Tweed, but also the resilience and humour of the people and communities affected by this natural disaster."

Rob Olver, September 2017

FUJIFILM

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Flood debris I 2017

digital print on cotton rag

49 × 62 cm