

The catalyst for this project was the damage done to a large old family home in the 2011 Christchurch earthquakes. The loss of this building led me to reflect on the question of what makes a place significant, and what the loss of this particular place meant to me.



Remnants



As I painted, this resolved itself into the concept of the remnant; a fragment that has been left behind from a lost whole.



A remnant could be a physical fragment - the ruins of an old house eroded by time. Or a product of the mind - the images or traces of scenes that linger in memory or are replayed in dreams.

Remnants tell us who we are; they are symbols of our past, and how we think of ourselves. The ruins of places that have been significant to us can also tell us something about what made them significant, and what it means when we lose them.



They carry within them implications of the erosion of memory and our sense of self; perhaps our memories of place are as uncertain and unreliable as the place itself.



They suggest the passing of time, and the uncertainty of knowing or completely understanding the past from which they come. For me, these images are also about the gap between what is known and unknown.

