

*Conductor* is an exhibition of original artworks by Deb Hoy.

Throughout the gallery, raw minerals, including copper, malachite and graphite, explore earth structures and subtle energy shifts. Drawing upon the conductive nature of copper, and using the artist as conduit, intuitive marks become scores to describe intangible experiences. The result is a human response to the world around, above and below, from microscopic particles to immense mountain ranges and meteorites. *Conductor* sees Deb Hoy explore energy in motion, and reach toward a harmonic transmutation of matter in a rapidly changing world.

The exhibition begins with a series of 'Copper Drawings' in which the artist has built up layers of imagery by responding to the abstract forms of compressed copper leaf sheets. She uses remnants of leaves from the production process, those that get crumpled during manufacture and lumped together to create interesting textures and forms. Carefully teasing these apart using her finger tips, Deb Hoy uses the delicate copper layers to create a world where matter is suspended upon the white of the page as if frozen in motion. Once the copper is laid onto paper, graphite marks are built up around it and a new, yet elusive context emerges. The abstract contexts

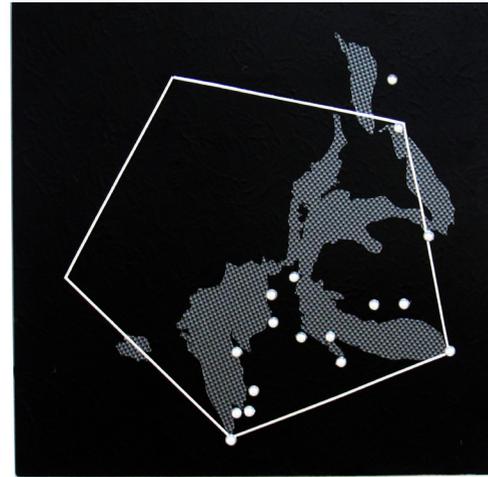
fluctuate between the microscopic and mountainous, sometimes taking us inside the human body and at other times dancing around in outer space, always open to multiple interpretation. Matter and particles in motion exist everywhere and the conductive nature of copper is used here to draw attention to the exchange of energy between particles, seen and unseen, underpinning every aspect of existence.

Copper as a conductive material has been used repeatedly in conceptual Fine Art, most famously by Joseph Beuys whose sculptures often included copper combined with felt and fat, alluding to energy exchange, conductivity and insulation.

Deb Hoy's research has taken her underground to mine the geological conditions in which copper is created and utilise the associated mineral deposits that naturally occur along side it.



Azurite and Malachite pigments on paper



'Great Lakes Pentagram' charts a journey that she took across the Great Lakes region of Mid-West America in 2007, exploring the 'copper veins' that took pioneers to the area several hundred years ago. From a boat on Lake Superior at Munising, the 'Pictured Lakeshore Rocks' display brightly coloured mineral deposits leached out of the rock by rainfall, staining the cliff-face with abstract images and textures. Later research showed that electro-magnetic energy lines in the earth increase in bands around the area to create lines in a pentagram configuration. Unbeknown at the time of travel, Deb Hoy and her companion magnetised themselves along the natural earth-lines of the area, perhaps enhanced by the conductive native copper below their feet.

Copper compounds have always been used in the production of artist's pigments, and are still

prevalent today in many chemically enhanced paint. The 'Mountain Green' series is titled after a common name given to hues that are based upon copper carbonate, copper silicate or copper sulphate colours. The acrylics used in these paintings all contain copper, with the exception of white (titanium) and ochre (earth). The images suggest landscapes that might exist above ground, covering the copper-rich mountains below.

The mineral series (Azurite, Malachite, and Verdigris) are based on studies of mineral specimens from the Natural History Museum in London. They are painted using raw pigments of crushed pure copper minerals. Both Azurite and Malachite are semi-precious stones, used in healing practices for conducting, repelling and transmuting energy.

Deb Hoy has carefully created her own paint for these studies, binding pure pigment in acacia gum and water to allow the pigment particles to flow and coalesce on heavy cotton rag watercolour paper.

Working to create images on paper and sculptural objects, Deb Hoy's interest in raw materials compels her to explore how matter can be altered and activated to enhance our awareness of subtle energies and communicate our intangible experiences within the world.