Freeling springs

Oil on canvas

50 x 90 cm

2016

This painting is inspired by Freeling Springs, located on the eastern flanks of the Denison and Davenport Ranges in the far north of South Australia. As well as a spring site, it is also the location of an old copper mine. Freeling Springs was a site that I included in my Phd studies; I remember the first time I visited it, the day was especially cold and overcast. The site itself contains a number of small springs that leak water out onto a plain, which eventually covers the area in limestone and salt encrustations. Like many spring sites along the Oodnadatta Track, the remnants of the fleeting attempts of Europeans to try and make a living in this harsh environment are scattered around, including the occasional date palm, sometimes alive and thriving still, sometimes not.