

Thinking about a thing – *Capturing the Mount*

Living next to the mount between 2006-11, and seeing it from my studio window St Michael's Mount every day, I began hundreds of drawings from every angle. The St Micheal's Mount is truly the jewel in the crown of the bay, and is consistent only in its variety. It looks different each day, in each weather and sky combination, as well as from each angle. It was these things that made me paint and draw landscape(!); history, difference, place and cultural concept – as well as its beautiful sculptural form.

The Mount, besieged historically by power struggles, now by tourism, remains as a metaphor of *between*. The path between the mainland and the mount, always a pilgrimage, is the site of tourist rather than religious fervour. Now sightseers stream backwards and forwards on the causeway to this tidal island that dominates Mounts Bay.

St Michael's Mount has a unique position in people's hearts and affections. In drawing it, I hope to capture and examine its relationship to things, and this project involves new ways of thinking about a thing. The Mount is a thing - a place, an object, a product of different histories, making it a symbol of cultural capital as well as a thing of beauty. In this way it is already art.

I make initial drawings in pencil and then bitumen drawings quickly and abstractedly, blurring but always maintaining the Mount's iconic form. By *capturing the mount*, I mean representing, and enunciating meaning in manifold ways, anticipating the possibility that the material possibilities of a thing are involved in the production of new meaning – and new thinking,