Thesis Title:

*Between the Interior and the Exterior:*

*Between the Finite and the Infinite*

*A space for the re-enchantment of art*


Exegesis Submitted for

PhD

25th September 2011
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Graham Marchant, Sydney, 25th September 2012
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Between the Interior and the Exterior
Between the Finite and the Infinite
A space for the re-enchantment of art

Abstract
I am an artist and a gardener; the observation of nature, of seasons and of changing light is my subject matter. In this paper I will look at the symbolic depiction of the garden and nature as subject from medieval times to the present day. I intend to make the case that realist depictions of nature, framed by the grid of architecture, have developed out of the same tradition as the abstract grid described by Krauss, as ‘…a model for the antidevelopmental, the antinarrative, the antihistorical’.

My definition of the grid is broader than that of Krauss, I include in the historic formal grid of the enclosed garden in Medieval times, the narrative grid of Friedrich’s doors and windows, the architectural grid of Haussmann’s Paris and Monet’s structural grid’s evident in his serial works. Through the inclusive nature of my approach I will follow a trajectory showing that the depiction of nature through the grids of landscape and garden design and through the domestic grids of windows, doors, balconies and greenhouses, a parallel realist, rather than an abstract, trajectory occurred.

In this paper I argue that the realist trajectory that I describe can also induce a sense of a transcendent reality that can articulate fundamental human emotions. The use of the grid structures in the work of the artists that I refer to provides a formwork for looking through, from inside to outside, from surface to space, from finite to infinite, a threshold which allowed for a new realization that ‘…dialectics of inside and outside multiply with countless diversified nuances.’ I am arguing that through realist depiction’s of nature we might find

the ‘...experience of art as a form of enchantment that is useful in rendering a valuable way of knowing the world’ ³.