



The Language of Art

‘All I need is a sheet of paper
and something to write with,
and then I can turn the world
upside down’

Friedrich Nietzsche

Left: Layers of the Landscape I,
43 cm x 69 cm acrylic
on synthetic paper created
2016 for the RE:Location
exhibition.

Words awash with emotion can float poetically over us. They may fall upon us like clean, soft rain. They can open locked doors that were never really locked at all, exposing the mind to new ways of thinking. However some, falling heavier, may pass through the skin barrier and embed in our bodies, for words can have barbs. Such is the multi-layered power of language.

Like words, artworks have their own language and message, and will speak to the viewer on many levels. The artist may not include words in the artwork but there are many materials and techniques that can be used to communicate meaning. However, it is the viewer standing in front of an artwork, and not the artist, who tells the story through the memories and emotions the artwork evokes.