



Memory Landscape I (2014) 1 of 22, 33cm x 81cm, mixed media. Collection of the Artist

Memory Landscape I is a set of honouring scrolls completed in 2014 as a tribute to a loved one who had recently passed. The recent death of his friend, who Barry describes as close as kin, an “adopted brother,” prompted him to go into his own archive of slide transparencies. The images were taken in the 1980s during their travels together through their home territory of Manitoulin Island and the surrounding Algoma region of Northern Ontario. The compositions for each scroll include the digital scans Ace made of the transparencies to form photographic diptychs, with his beadwork forming the intermediary between each image.

Traditionally, the Anishinaabeg used birch bark as a material to record information, including migration stories, songs, ceremony and mythology. In Memory Landscape I and II, Ace's diptychs and beaded motifs on birch bark form a *tableaux*, drawing its inspiration from birch bark sheets that are stitched together to form sacred scrolls with incised information important to the Midewiwin, the Grand Medicine Society of the Anishinaabe. Using the facsimile of birch bark, which he has created by digitally scanning bark that is then printed onto archival canvas, he innovates with a modern material to commemorate the time these two friends spent together on the land. As with much of his oeuvre, he uses contemporary materials to situate the work in a current context, while still ensuring cultural continuity with the past. Lashed with deer hide strips onto either end are wooden sticks Ace sourced where he now resides in Ottawa, Ontario. The scrolls can stand alone or be further extended by lashing them together to form a longer work.

In Memory Landscape I, a very personal work that was first exhibited in Braga, Portugal at Museu Nogueira da Silva, 22 scrolls form a complete narrative documenting the seasons of life, and will remain together as an unbroken set. Through these lush images, he invites us to see this stunning landscape through an Anishinaabe lens.

See installed work:

[MUSEU NOGUEIRA DA SILVA \(BRAGA, PORTUGAL\)](#)

[LATCHAM GALLERY \(WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, ONTARIO\)](#)

[KARSH-MASSON GALLERY \(OTTAWA, ONTARIO\)](#)