



# The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

*Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper*

David Pirrie

Independent Curator's Selection

November 16 - December 9, 2006



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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Artist Catalog, 'David Pirrie - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '  
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Commentary by Julie Oakes  
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Director: Richard Fogarty  
[www.headbonesgallery.com](http://www.headbonesgallery.com)

## David Pirrie by Julie Oakes

### Inde-Picks (Independent Curator's Selection)

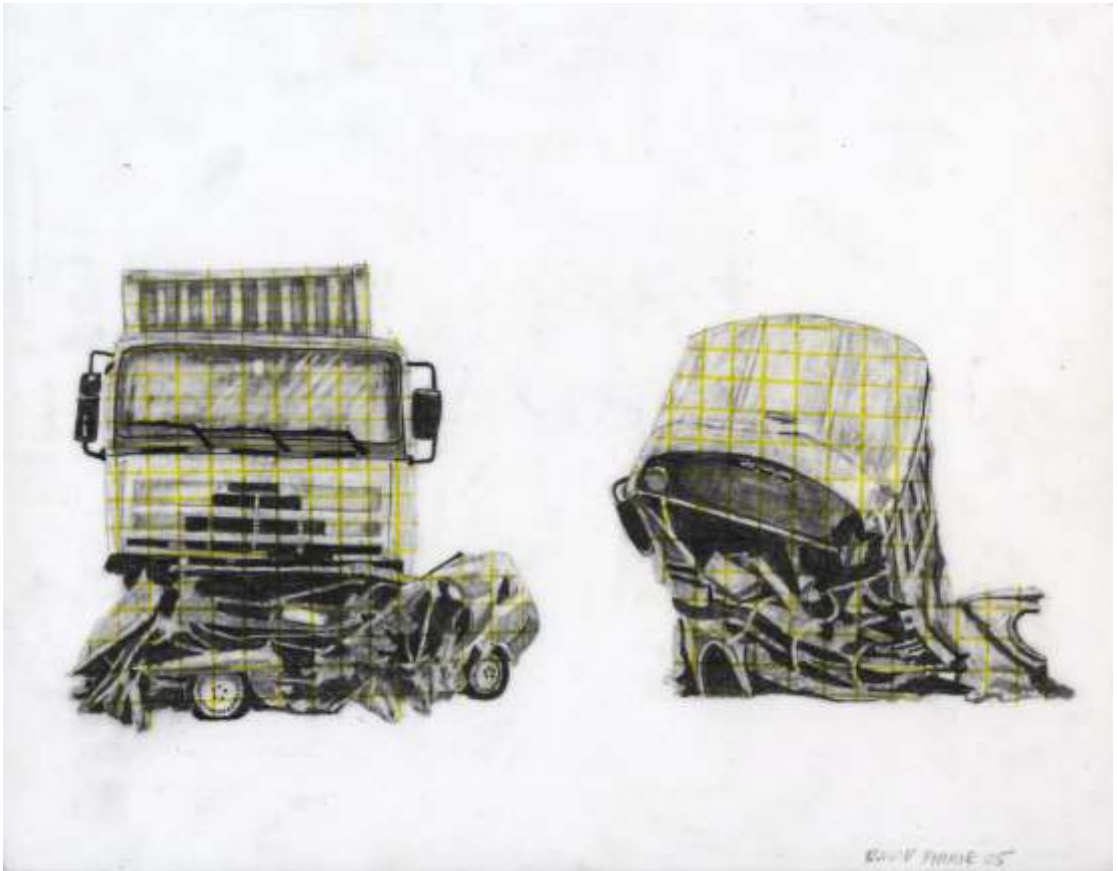
David Pirrie's carefully rendered remains of vehicular accidents, in pencil on vellum, overlaid with a grid and presented as art resonate with psychological and cultural implications. The motor vehicle is an icon that signifies positive as well as negative traits. The automobile is a symbol of wealth, status, style and even sexiness. Right down to the utilitarian vehicles for transportation - the eighteen-wheeler for example has become a pop trope, inspiring songs, literature, art and even looking like art with graphic, chrome and illuminated accessorizing. The motor vehicle is a necessity, a habit of convenience and a privilege. Yet it has also created immense repercussions on the environment and the need for oil has America at war with Iraq.

The extension of the image of the automobile into wreckage - the dead body of all that the automotive industry has come to stand for - has a metonymic meaning. David Pirrie's drawings reduce the bulky, twisted steel and rubber carcass to a comprehensible size. It is comparable to a small crucifix, a reminder of mortality and hence a prompt from which to formulate living. This sense of life's transience is especially poignant in the crumpled bus. It is empty and has been abandoned, for it is not only useless in its vehicular capacity, but it also was the container of lives that were lost as it transformed from a transportation for people to a smashed death trap. The viewer is, after all, still amongst the living, examining the tiny depiction of the remains of an accident that happened outside of his immediate ken. It has no identity other than a culturally pervasive, violent possibility of how death can occur. The drawings are remarkable examples of the ability to resurrect, from an image associated with death, a conceptual awe at man's trajectory from his discovery of the wheel to this contemporary, conceptual translation of where it has led him. This work speaks of the pity of progress, the fragility of human accomplishments and yet the sophistication of the overview of Pirrie's analysis grants a divine perspective on our condition.

Picture the artist, David Pirrie, looking at the photographs of the wrecked vehicles, carefully drawing them, paying them attention, with a modeling that caresses the images. The work becomes distanced, divided into little squares with a weak yellow grid and then it passes from his hand and is brought out to be examined.



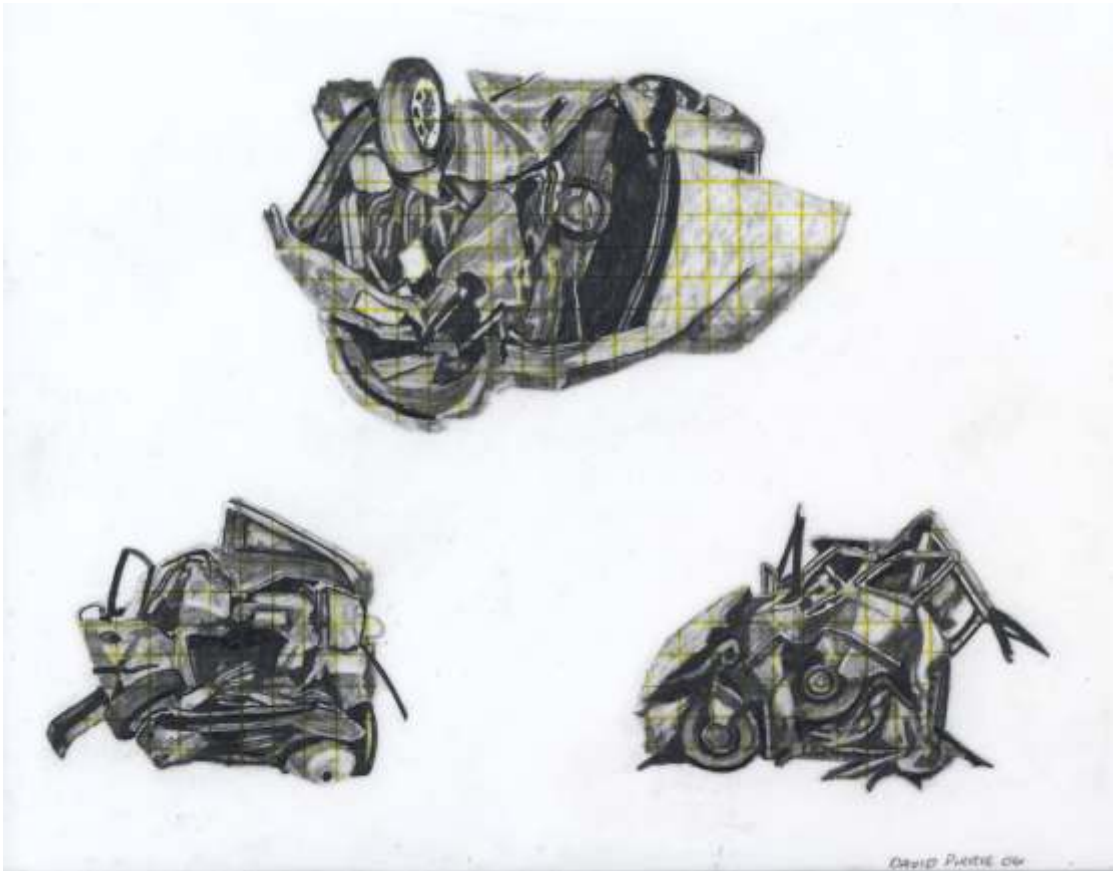
Risk analysis 865D1  
graphite on mylar  
7 x 9 in  
05/06



Risk analysis 865D2  
graphite on mylar  
7 x 9 in  
05/06

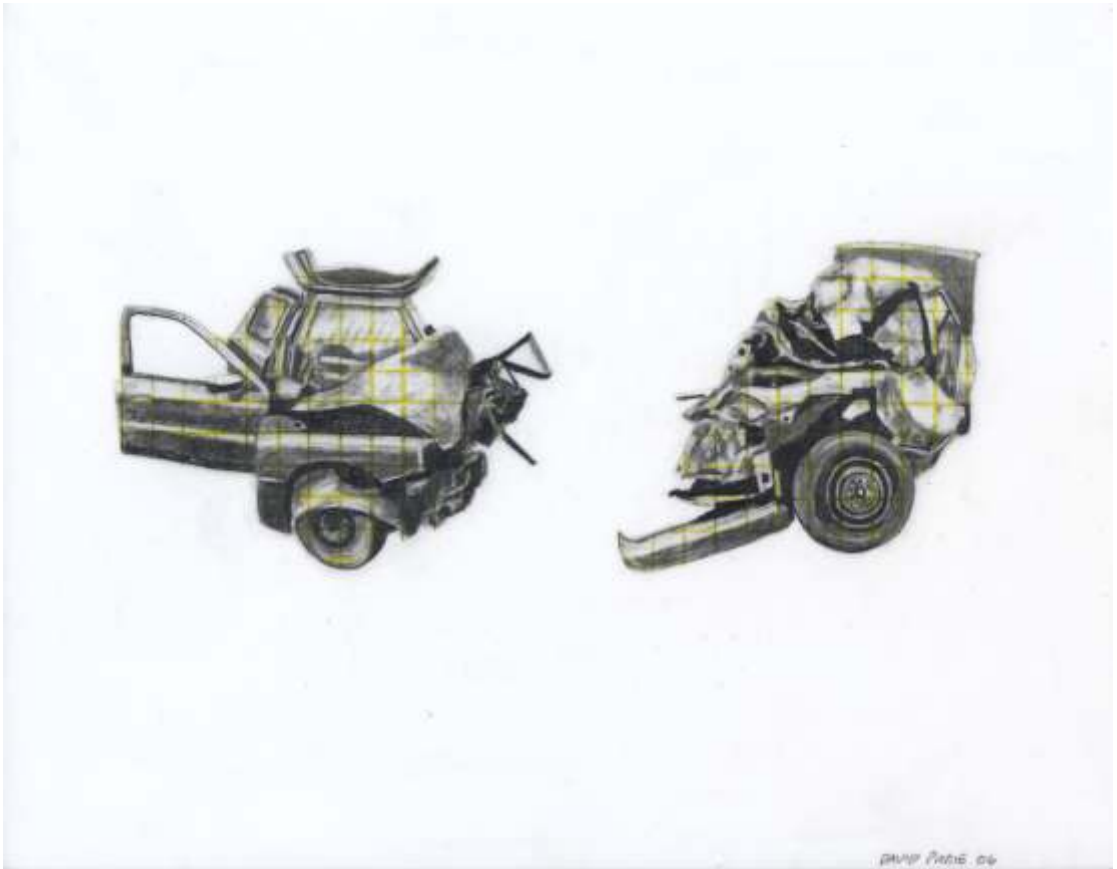


Risk analysis 865D3  
graphite on mylar  
7 x 9 in  
05/06



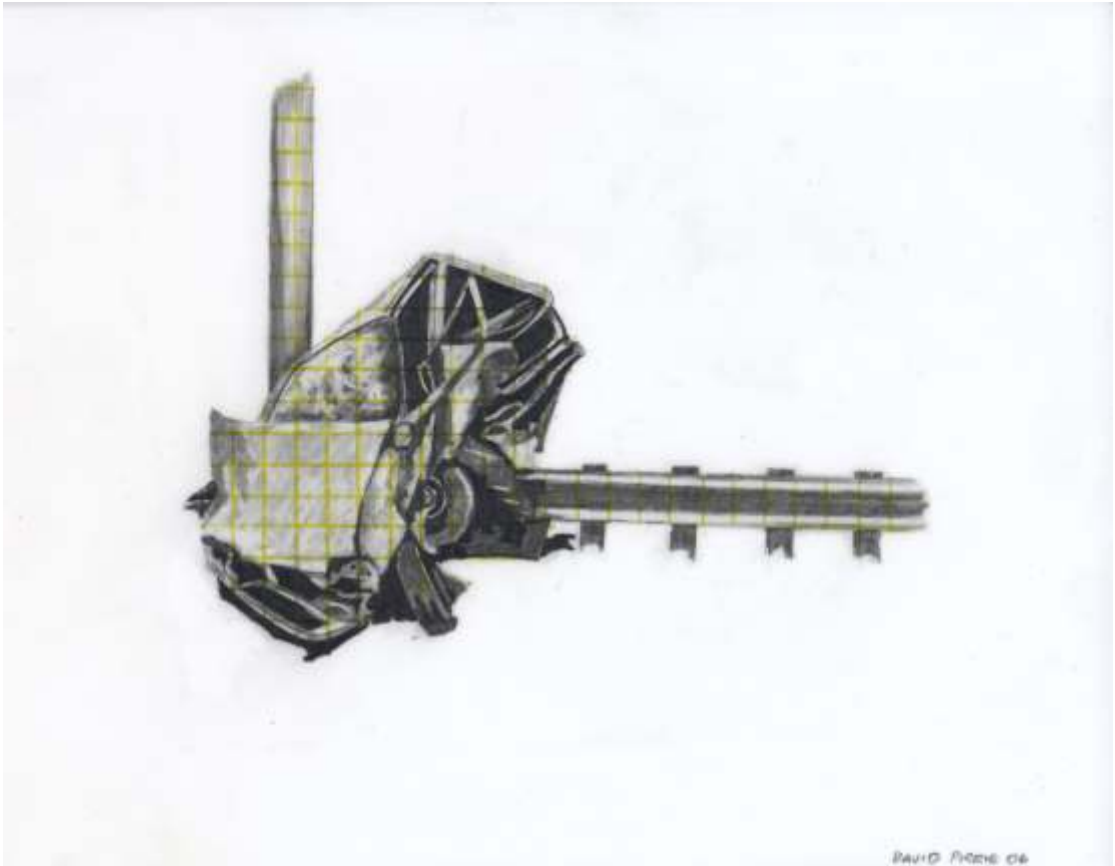
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graphite on mylar  
7 x 9 in  
05/06



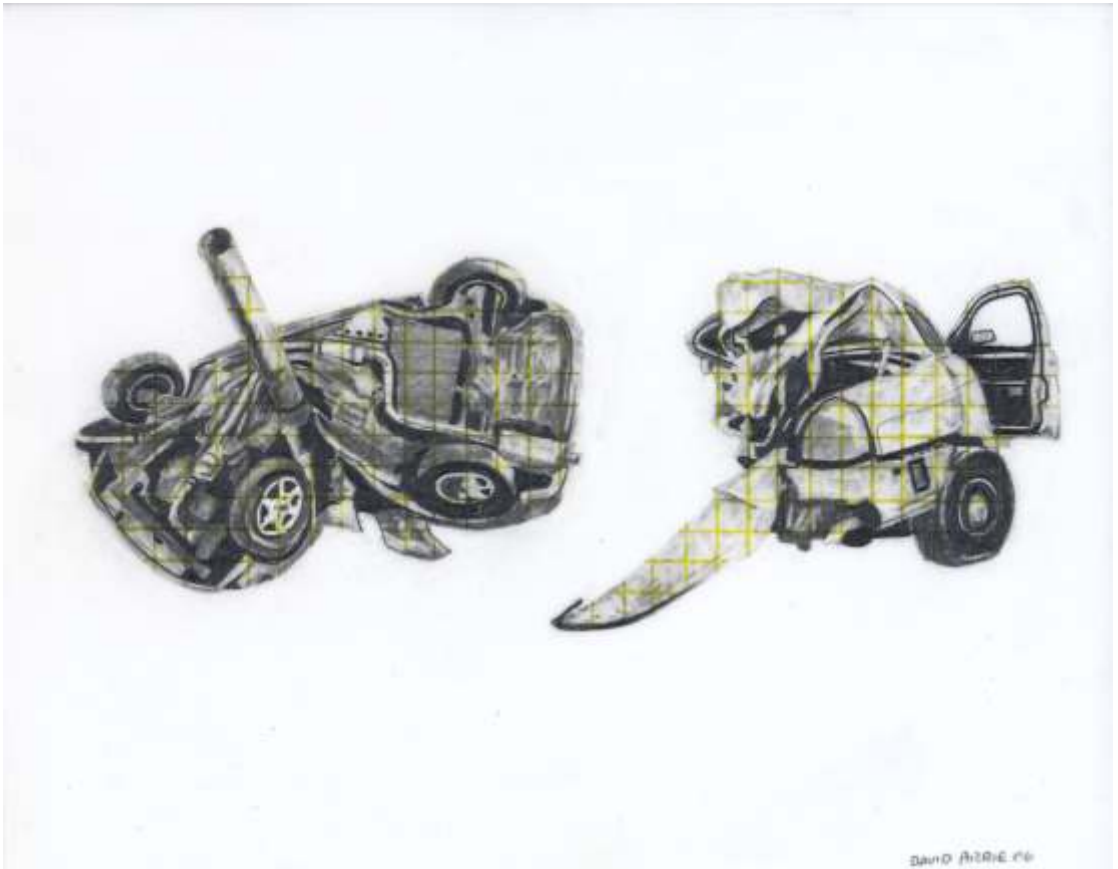


DAVID WHITE 06

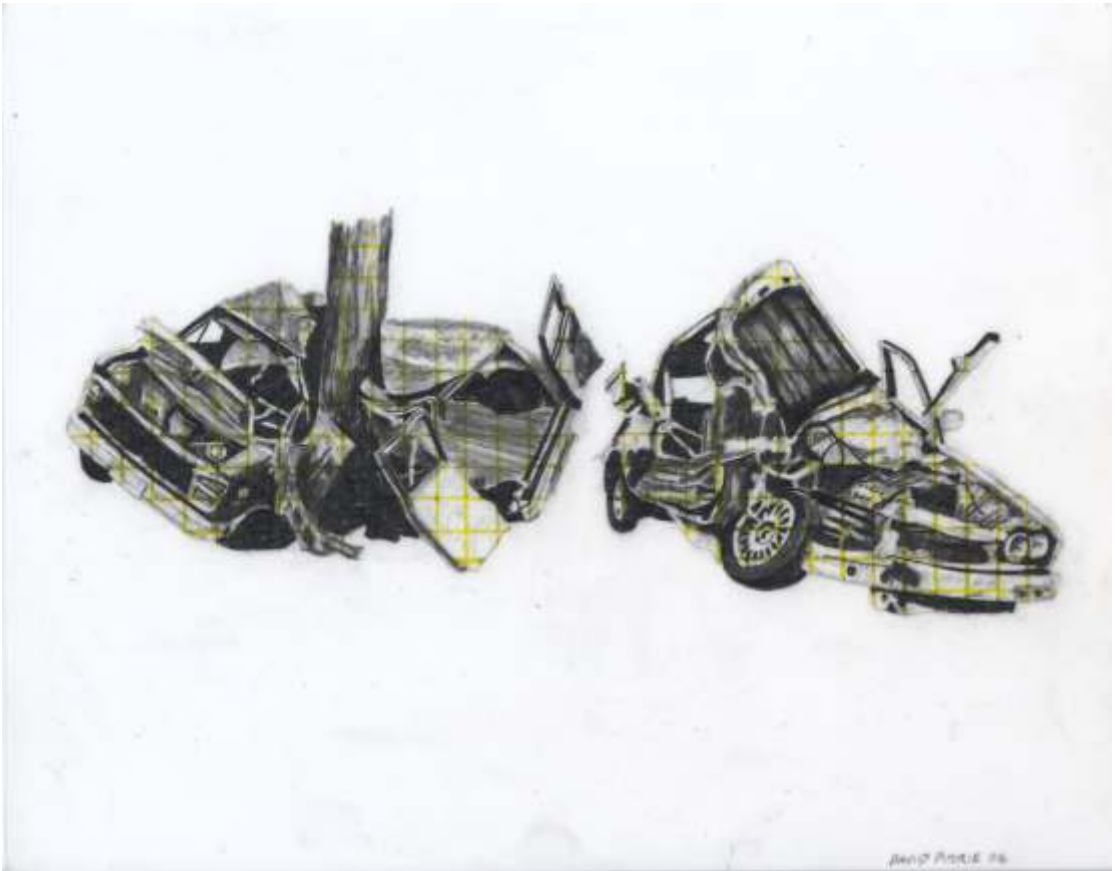
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7 x 9 in  
05/06



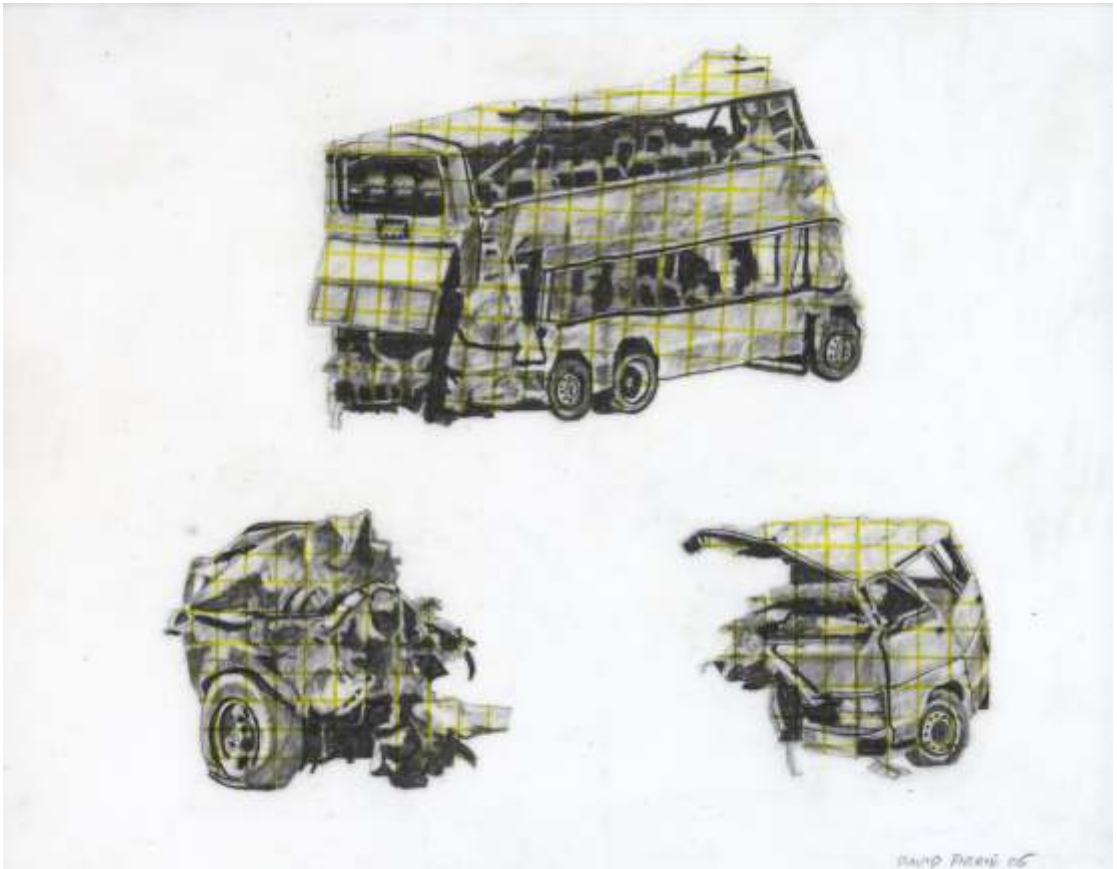
Risk analysis 865D6  
graphite on mylar  
7 x 9 in  
05/06



Risk analysis 865D7  
graphite on mylar  
7 x 9 in  
05/06



Risk analysis 865D8  
graphite on mylar  
7 x 9 in  
05/06



Risk analysis 865D9  
graphite on mylar  
7 x 9 in  
05/06



Risk analysis 51  
graphite on mylar  
7 x 9 in  
05/06

# David Pirrie

## EDUCATION

- 1993 B.F.A., Concordia University, Montreal.  
Diploma of Studio Arts, Capilano College, Vancouver.

## AWARDS

- The Canada Council: Explorations Grant.
- 1994 B.C Cultural Services: Project Grant.

## VISUAL ART EXHIBITIONS / Solo

- 2006 "Western Drift", Simon Fraser University, Teck Gallery, Vancouver.
- 2006 "Risk Analysis" Douglas Udell Gallery, Vancouver.
- 2005 State Gallery, Vancouver.
- 2004 "Subduction Zone". Verge Gallery, Vancouver.
- 2004 "The Loneliest Highway". Atelier 31 Gallery, Seattle.
- 2002 Atelier 31 Gallery, Seattle.
- 1995 "Engage", Vancouver East Cultural Centre Gallery.  
"Bearings", Vancouver Community Arts Council.  
A.C.E. Gallery, Vancouver.
- 1991 Canal Complex, Montreal.  
Concordia Student Art Gallery, Montreal.

## VISUAL ART EXHIBITIONS / Selected Group

- 2006 Inde-Picks, Independent Curators Selections. The Drawers, Headbones Gallery. Toronto.
- 2006 Fall Show, Douglas Udell Gallery, Vancouver
- 2006 "Roadrunners", Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna BC. Curated by Linda Sawchwyn.
- 2006 "20th Anniversary Exhibition". Douglas Udell Gallery, Vancouver.
- 2005 "Arte Fiera" (Bologna Art Fair), GAS Gallery Turin Italy.
- 2004 "Bites". Atelier 31 Gallery, Seattle.
- 2004 "Tra Est e Ovest" (From East to West) GAS Gallery, Turin Italy.
- 2004 "Vancouver Art Gallery Auction". The Vancouver Art Gallery.
- 2004 "Consumables", Bumpershoot Biennale, Seattle. Curated by Mathew Kangas.
- 2004 "Small Surprises". Verge Gallery, Vancouver.
- 2003 Third Avenue Gallery, Vancouver.  
"Figuration", Pengah Gallery, Vancouver.
- 1996 Helen Pitt Gallery, 50/50 show, Vancouver.
- 1995 "Currents, An Exhibition of Contemporary Art", Vancouver.
- 1995 Or Gallery, Vancouver.  
"Work In Progress: Vancouver Artists in Their Studios".

- 1993 "Arts in Action", touring exhibition sponsored by External Affairs Canada in Senegal, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Benin, Nigeria, Gabon.
- 1991 Concordia University Art Gallery, Montreal.

#### CATALOGUES AND PUBLICATIONS

- 2004 Art Auction, Published by The Vancouver Art Gallery, 2004.  
"Tra Est e Ovest", Ritratti di gallerie internazionali 2 La Galleria Atelier 31 Seattle. Published by GAS Gallery, Torino Italy, 2004.  
"Subduction Zone", Published by Verge Gallery, Vancouver BC, 2004.  
Currents, An Exhibition of Vancouver Contemporary Art. Published by The Vancouver Life Drawing Society, 1995.  
Work In Progress, Vancouver Artists in Their Studios. Published by Arts in Action Society, Vancouver BC, 1994.

#### PRINT MEDIA

- Gustafson, Paula: "David Pirrie". Artichoke Magazine of The Arts. Summer Ed. 2005.
- Rubiffini, Emanuela: *Giovani Artisti Italiani* (Torino Italy). November 20th, 2004.
- Brayshaw, Christopher: *The Georgia Straight*. June 10th, 2004
- Loydd, Dick: *Arts and Life*. *The Vancouver Sun*. June 7th, 2004.
- Engelson, Andrew: "SW Pick". *The Seattle Weekly*. January 7-13, 2004.
- Nicholls, Jim: "Memory". *Arcade, The Journal for Architecture and Design in the Northwest*. Fall 1997.
- Laurence, Robin: "Currents, An Exhibition of Contemporary Art". *The Saturday review, The Vancouver Sun*, April 1st, 1995.
- Wilson, Peter: feature interview, "Thursday Calendar". *The Vancouver Sun*, March 16th, 1995.
- Gustafson, Paula: "Arts Notes". *The Georgia Straight*. March 16th, 1995.
- Shefrin, Elizabeth: "A Sense of Place". *Pacific Current Magazine*. March 1995.
- Laurence, Robin: "Art in the Merry Month of May". *The Saturday Review, The Vancouver Sun*, May 28th, 1994.
- Wilson, Peter: "Artists Door to Door". *The Vancouver Sun*, May 5th, 1994.
- L'Ecuyer, Sylvia: "Arts Review". *Vent d'Ouest, Radio CBC*, June 9th, 1993.
- Rosenberg, Ann: "The Saturday Re view". *The Vancouver Sun*, March 6th, 1993.

#### COLLECTIONS

- The Four Seasons Resort, Whistler BC.
- The Pan Pacific Resort, Whistler BC.
- James Stafford Chartered Accountants, Vancouver BC.
- ACM Media, Vancouver BC.
- The collection of Claudia Beck and Andrew Gruft, Vancouver BC.



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