

Beautiful lines create intriguing hidden forms

Chris Denton is an accomplished printmaker with a lengthy exhibiting career. His works are intricate and detailed, demonstrating attention to detail.

Taking the age-old subjects of fruit still life and the drapery of fabric as his focus, in *Material Void* Denton has used drypoint and drawing to depict the myriad subtleties of colour and form.

Denton's works are deceptively simple, with their limited content and seeming preoccupation with draftsmanship rather than inventiveness or creativity. These works are about the complexity of vision, of seeing, of showing and of shielding from sight. This exploration of the act of viewing



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Chris Denton: Material Void

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the art work is emphasised by the repetition of content, and may not have been revealed through single works in isolation. Each individual work is a demonstration of Denton's skilful command of line and depth, and the collected exhibition is an involved and intriguing study of space and

perception. Mottled red apples nestle gently in the folds of linen-covered boxes; their forms edge in and out of sight. Denton obscures and reveals the curves of the fruit as an exploration of the conceptual notion of space – the apples exist in an imaginary space and are inserted within artist-conjured containers within that space.

Draping tables, boxes and other structures in billows of patterned cloth is another method Denton employs to explore this idea of hidden nothingness. Checkered patterns in blue or orange and white are depicted as both subject and disguise, covering and concealing what is behind or beneath with occasional clues as to what we have not been shown.

Material Void is a collection of seemingly simple studies of form, each executed with painstaking attention to the use of curve and line. Denton is a very skilful practitioner and his works reflect his commitment to fine technical application in representing his visual concepts.

The question of artistic depiction is examined through Denton's use of veiling, draping and concealing within the picture plane. His meditation on what constitutes space, and how the artist creates the subject and the space within the art work, is the preoccupation of this exhibition which reveals the concealing illusion of the artist's constructed void.