



Artist's Statement 2017

## **Luke M Walker**

My art practice derives from an exploration of the environment primarily through walking, my most recent work involves collecting specific data on each walk, the length, the pace, the altitude or number of steps etc. and translating the data into a painting.

These 'potential landscapes' are paintings of the activity of walking and painting, but also of time and distance. It is these additional spatial and temporal qualities that I am keen to express in my work, whether through constructed landscapes or from a direct observation of the environment. They assimilate and estimate, showing structure, infrastructure and metastructure, moments of clarity break down to reveal the fragility of the image, they act as a record of both the activity of the artist in the landscape but also in the studio.

For me, Painting offers a succinct and immediate opportunity to put forward a position and then to develop a dialogue with the viewer. I want to demonstrate how an artist can use technology, ie; walking apps, gps tracking, data collection and manipulation to construct a new narrative but still established within the format of a painting, to explore what role the landscape painter can play in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

My personal relationship with the landscape has also changed, and what once might have been described as homage to the environment has now become something more adversarial, with each body of work beginning to question the value of human activity; whether this is the construction of our cities, our stewardship of the environment or the role of the artist as a witness and how this can be expressed, particularly but not exclusively, through painting.