

RUTH CLELAND Mall 2010



15 October – 27 November 2010



Mall series 2006-10

Mall features a series of drawings that document suburban shopping malls in New Zealand.

The methodical and obsessive photorealist process used in this series emulates the homogeneity of the subject matter, while inviting the viewer to slow down and investigate what might have otherwise been overlooked. Images are paired together, creating compositional relationships between various mall locations and focusing attention towards particular details of these spaces. Perspectival distance shots sit alongside almost flat surfaces of detail, such as pavement or floor tiles, which are magnified to the point of abstraction.

The relationship between homogeneity and the handmade is further explored in these works through the grid. At first the grid appears to be a uniform pattern, as it underlies, overlays, maps, contains and partially conceals the photorealist drawings. Upon closer inspection, the imperfections and unique characteristics of each hand-drawn line become apparent. In some works the grid is presented alongside an image or on its own; multiplied and layered upon itself to not only suggest the proximity of a surface, but also the possibility of the grid obscuring a view beyond.

- Ruth Cleland, 2010

All the available variety and difference of late capitalism is displayed beneath dome and atrium, as fountains and fig trees, marble and glass, elevators and escalators, respectively contain, decorate and facilitate the endlessly effortless movement between nature and culture, heaven and hell. Shopping. Shopping.

- Richard Silverstone, *Visions of Suburbia*. Routledge, London / New York, 1997, p.8



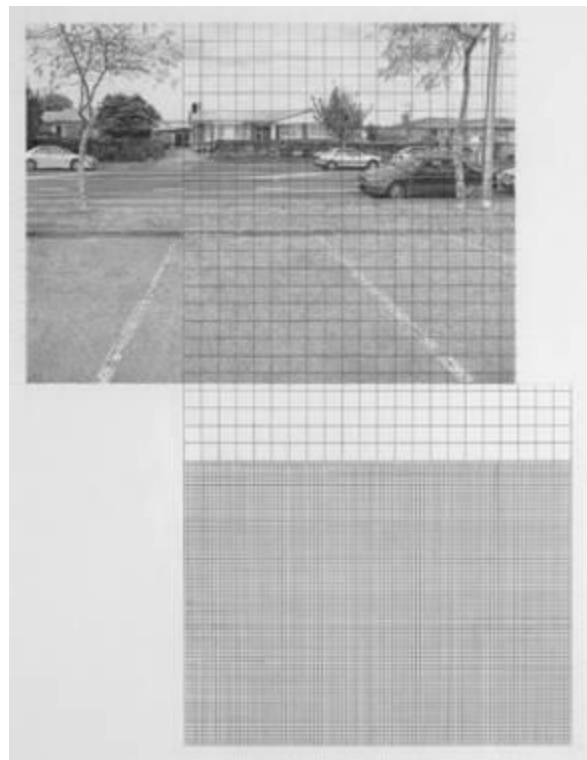
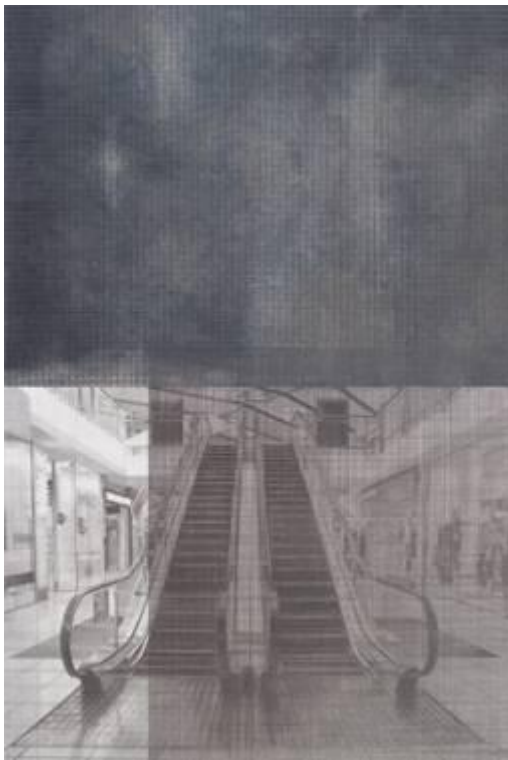
Travelator, 2010, graphite pencil on paper, 203 x 303 mm (image size)



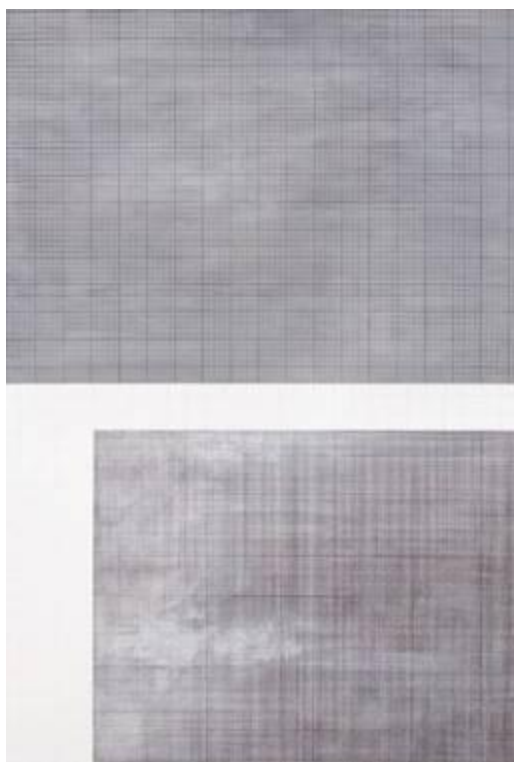
Ground Level, 2008, graphite pencil on paper, 203 x 303 mm (image size)



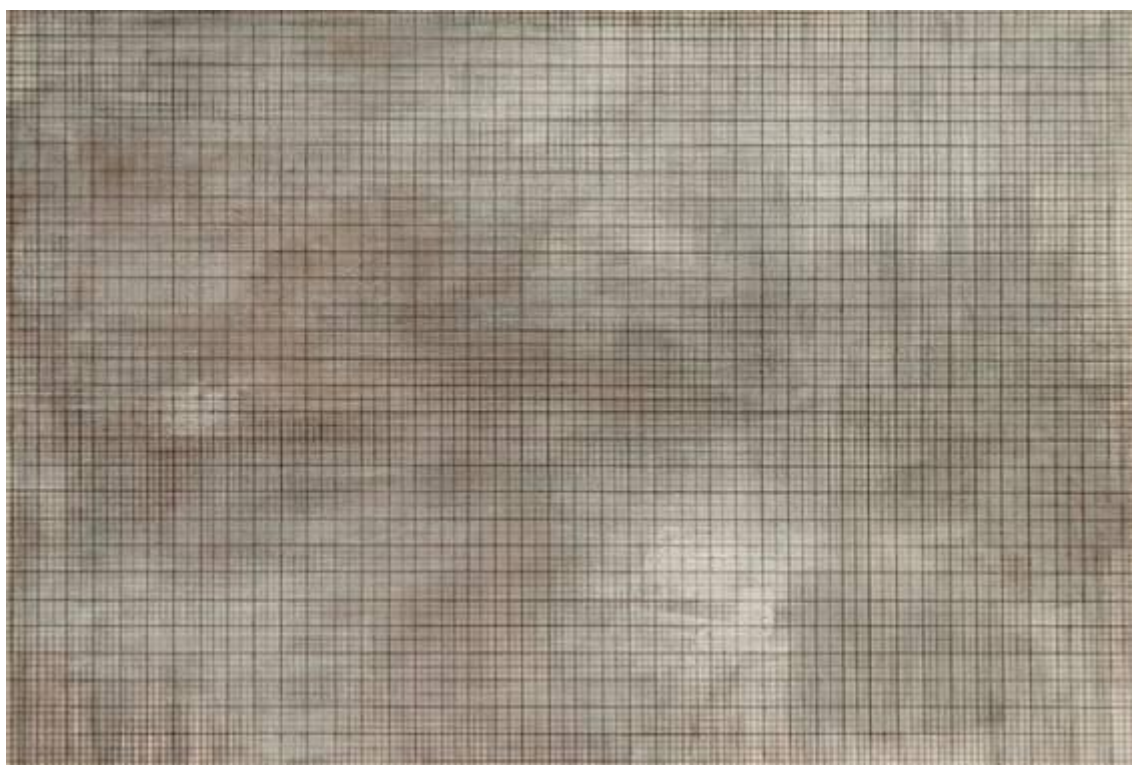
LEFT: Mall, 2009, graphite pencil on paper, 412 x 276 mm (image size)
RIGHT: Parking Building, 2009, graphite pencil on paper, 406 x 310 mm



LEFT: Escalator with Grids, 2010, acrylic and graphite pencil on paper, 410 x 276 mm (image size)
RIGHT: Car Park with Grid, 2010, graphite pencil on paper, 412 x 310 mm (image size)



Grid #2, 2009, acrylic and graphite pencil on paper, 410 x 276 mm (image size)



Grid #3, 2009, acrylic and graphite pencil on paper, 230 x 338 mm (image size)