IAN HOWARD is an artist and Emeritus Professor at UNSW Sydney, Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture. Previously he was Dean of the College of Fine Arts (COFA) UNSW, and Provost and Director of the Queensland College of Art, Griffith University. He trained in Sydney, London, and Montreal. His artwork progresses a cultural relationship between civilians and military institutions, concentrating on territory and border issues—walls, barriers, and containment, including enforcing vehicles—aircraft, tanks and ships. He works and exhibits internationally. **Realism** in the classical sense encompasses a practical understanding of life, accuracy of simulation, and theories that things exist objectively, and that statements have truth values. Howard’s artwork has been described as experimental realism using a direct-media technique. He argues that the interdependent relationship the subject has with the artwork image means each work contains an integrity of realism. This one-to-one relationship includes representation at size-scale, undertaken on location, and within the actual time and operational performance of that subject matter. Exhibited in public settings, this realism is arguably self-communicating and inherently, or at least latently, expressive. It therefore provides for the viewer of the works a pathway of image and context from which to assemble an informed morality based response.

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Borders, Rights and Religions—The city walls of Derry were constructed 1613-1618 by the Irish Society, a group of trades organisations within the city of London that supported the plantation in Ireland. The plantation was the colonisation of Ulster by Protestant British families at the end of the failed Irish Nine Years War against English rule following the Tudor conquests of the 16th century. Up to 8ms high and 10ms wide, the encircling walls were 1.5km long. Built to protect the newly arrived settlers, such intent was reinforced by re-naming the town Londonderry. The walls were effective during the unsuccessful siege of Derry by the Jacobites and the French in 1689. Prior to the siege, an unpopular change of garrison from predominantly Protestant to Catholic soldiers was thwarted by thirteen apprentices who quickly locked the city gates preventing the Irish Commander’s regiment from entering. This action and the resupply of the town by English ships on the river Foyle during the 105 day siege are still commemorated annually by Protestant marches. Historic and 20th century grievances felt by the Catholic population boiled over in 1969 leading to the battle of the Bogside which ignited the thirty-year civil conflict known as the Troubles. During this period the British Army had a strong presence in Londonderry including observation posts overlooking the Catholic Bogside from on top of the city walls. https://vimeo.com/user80342967/citywallsofderry
Borders between Neighbours—the line from Robert Frost’s poem “Mending Wall”, “Good fences make good neighbours” continues to challenge. His short lines sit in starkest contrast to the gargantuan scale of the US–Mexico border stretching more than 3000km from the Pacific Coast to the Gulf of Mexico. The number of legal and illegal daily crossings of people and goods makes this likely the busiest contested border in the world. Traversing cities, deserts, mountainous regions and for half its length, following the Rio Grande River, the border results from the Mexican–American War of 1846–1848 with final adjustments made as recently as 1970. And the closeness of people, as neighbours, on each side is both historic and continuing. Accordingly, attempts to fence the border only started in the 20th century and have been erratic. Each country, a democratic republic with its own divergence of views, priorities, policies and legal challenges, has meant that complex border issues are difficult to resolve, including the cost effectiveness of a physical barrier. Consequently, there has been a growth in policing the border with extra personnel, surveillance, and advanced technologies. Regardless, deaths by attempted crossing have increased sharply, as has the number of migrants being detained at the border. Robert Frost’s insights are keen. A ‘good fence’ is one that advantages each side’s prosperity and security. 

https://vimeo.com/user80342967/usmexicoborder
BORDERS OF TERRITORIAL CLAIM—FIVE SMALL ISLANDS AND THREE ROCKY OUTCROPS, TOTALLING 7SQ KM OF UNINHABITED LAND IN THE EAST CHINA SEA, NE OF TAIWAN AND SW OF OKINAWA, ARE CLAIMED BY CHINA, TAIWAN AND JAPAN, NAMED RESPECTIVELY THE DIAOYU, TIAOYUTAI AND SENKAKU ISLANDS. CHINA'S CLAIM TO TERRITORIAL RIGHTS DATES BACK TO 1534 AND IS LINKED TO A SIMILAR ARGUMENT FOR TAIWAN. ALTHOUGH AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II JAPAN WAS FORCED TO ABANDON MANY OF ITS VARIOUS TERRITORIES INCLUDING TAIWAN, THE 1951 TREATY OF SAN FRANCISCO ASSIGNED THE SENKAKU ISLANDS TO THE US WHICH RETURNED THEM TO JAPAN IN 1971. DURING THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, THERE WAS A JAPANESE FISHERIES FACTORY ON ONE OF THE ISLANDS AND OTHERS PASSED INTO PRIVATE OWNERSHIP. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT MOVED TO BUY THEM BACK IN 2012. THIS, ALONG WITH THE ISLAND’S EXTENSIVE FISHING AND POTENTIAL UNDERWATER OIL AND GAS RESERVES MEANT POLITICAL CLAIMS AND COUNTER CLAIMS ESCALATED. CHINESE, TAIWANESE, AND JAPANESE ACTIVISTS HAVE TRIED TO REACH THE ISLANDS WITH EACH BEING INTERCEPTED BY THE JAPANESE COAST GUARD. HOSTILE AND DEADLY ACTIONS HAVE ENSUED. IN ALL THREE COUNTRIES DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE OCCURRED IN SUPPORT OF CLAIMS AND PROTESTING COUNTER CLAIMS. GEOPOLITICALLY, THE ISLANDS ARE CLOSE TO STRATEGIC SHIPPING LANES AND IN 2013 WERE ENCOMPASSED WITHIN CHINA’S NEW AIR DEFENCE IDENTIFICATION ZONE. THE EXPANDED ZONE IS NOT RECOGNISED BY THE US AND MANY REGIONAL NATIONS. HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/USER80342967/DIAOYUSENKAKUISLANDS
BORDERS AGAINST DISORDER AND FEAR—THE 2013 AUSTRALIAN ELECTION FEATURED A “STOP THE BOATS” CAMPAIGN BY THE CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION WHICH ARGUABLY SWEPT THEM INTO POWER. THE NEW GOVERNMENT INSTIGATED OPERATION SOVEREIGN BORDERS LED BY THE DEFENCE FORCE. AIRFORCE, NAVY, AND ARMY WERE INVOLVED IN SURVEILLANCE, INTERDICTION AND TURN-BACKS OF ASYLUM SEEKER BOATS. LITTLE INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AS IT WAS ARGUED REVEALING “ON WATER MATTERS” WOULD ASSIST PEOPLE SMUGGLERS. CONCURRENTLY, A REGIONAL DETERRENCE FRAMEWORK INCLUDED AN UNSUCCESSFUL SCHEME TO BUY ASYLUM SEEKER BOATS PRIOR TO EMBARKATION. A 90% REDUCTION IN ASYLUM SEEKER ARRIVALS WAS CLAIMED WITHIN OSB’S FIRST YEAR. TURN-BACKS OCCURRED INCLUDING SOME WHERE AN UNSEAWORTHY BOAT WAS REPLACED BY A NAVY DELIVERED ORANGE SEA SURVIVAL CAPSULE. DURING 2014 LEGAL CHALLENGES WERE BROUGHT AGAINST REFOULEMENT. SUBSEQUENTLY, LEGISLATION WAS ENACTED PRIORITISING BORDER POLICY ABOVE U.N. CONVENTION RIGHTS OF REFUGEES. ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM VESSELS THAT WERE NOT TURNED BACK WERE TAKEN TO NAURU AND MANUS ISLAND OFFSHORE REGIONAL PROCESSING CENTRES. MANY DIVERSE REFUGEE SUPPORTING GROUPS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, LEGAL EXPERTS AND CONCERNED CITIZENS PROTESTED THE POLITICISATION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS ARRIVING BY BOAT AS A GROUP TO BE FEARED, THAT AT BEST WERE ECONOMIC MIGRANTS AND AT WORST, WOULD-BE TERRORISTS.

HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/USER80342967/AUSTRALIASBORDER