

CROSSWORDS

At 18, my father disappointed me. He lost his aura. Since then, I've tried to move my own way. On the road, two men inspired me.

I met Charles Ferguson in Berkeley in 2001. He was in the process of becoming a filmmaker and is now an Oscar winner (Inside Job).

At dinner with him a few days ago, I asked him if the walls of his large New York loft were still pristine. For a man who so enjoys the arts, the absence of art works in his home has always intrigued me and I have often questioned him about it.

To my surprise, he answered: 'No. They aren't pristine anymore.'

Two years ago, while having a beer at a hotel bar in Hobart with the curator Jean-Hubert Martin, we met Yannick Demmerle, a French artist who was living and working in the Tasmanian bush. He showed us some of his photographs and I was immediately captivated by his small and meticulous drawings on A4 paper. I love drawing. It is such a great medium; fragile, delicate, spontaneous.

MONA gave Yannick a residency, allowing him to make drawings on a much larger scale. After six months he has produced a fantastic body of work. This exhibition - his first in Australia - includes eleven of these new drawings, one large photograph from 2007 of the Tasmanian forest, and the video Touch Country.

Charles Ferguson told me at that dinner that he had recently bought two photographs by a French artist living in Tasmania called Yannick. They had impressed him with their powerful and compelling depiction of nature, and he made an exception for them. They are now hanging in his wall.

MONA is proud to present Yannick Demmerle's solo exhibition.

MONA is owned by David Walsh.

David Walsh is the other man who has inspired me.

Olivier Varenne (curator)