

## LOST EDGE

DIMITRI KOZYREV

## Lost Edge 2005-2009 Cutting Edge 2007

My interest in the intersection between actual, physical landscape and mental landscapes, coupled with recent world events, led me to reflect on the ruins of war and the human impact wars leave behind on landscape. Modernist, constructivist methods of rearranging pictorial space are used to reflect on the scars that wars have left behind, mentally and physically, but also the way that landscape and nature heal these scars and how the events and people who created them become forgotten. I have titled this body of work "Lost Edge." I use the word "edge" because I draw a comparison between the notion of the avant-garde in war and the art world. In the early 20th Century, the avant-garde was at the height of its importance in both realms. Now, however, I maintain that just as the concept of the military avant-garde has been "lost," because of changes in methods of warfare, the avant-garde in the contemporary art world, has also lost its edge.

The source material for this body of work is images of ruins of the once mighty fortifications of the Mannerhiem Line, built to protect Finland from the advances of the Soviet military avant-garde. Finland's attempt was valiant, but in vain; this war and the lives that were lost in 1939 are largely forgotten. The fortification lie in ruins, and nature is slowly reclaiming them. Similarly, the "cutting edge" of the contemporary art world seems to have become blunted. Viewers of the avant-garde work of many visionary artists of the early 20th Century were shocked, challenged and inspired by The Malevich's Black Square and The Urinal of Marcel Duchamp. Because of changes in society, like changes in warfare, it has become difficult for today's contemporary artist to generate the same level of response without resorting to vulgarity.



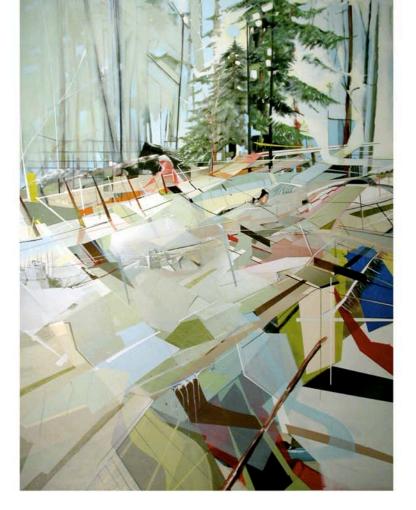
Lost Edge 1 and 2, 2005 acrylic, oil on canvas, 46"by 48", 46"by 60"



Lost Edge 3 and 4, 2006 acrylic, oil on canvas, 40"by 48", 46"by 48"



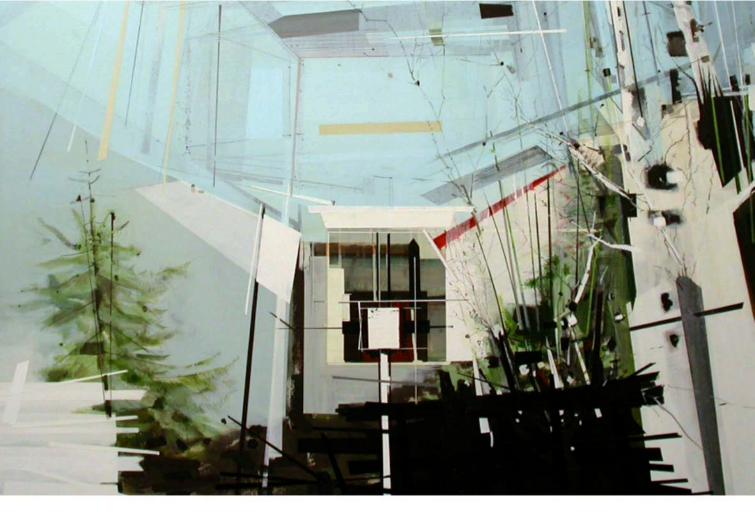
Lost Edge 11 and 8, 2006 acrylic, oil on canvas, 48"by 60", 48"by 60"



Lost Edge 9, 2007 acrylic, oil on canvas, 60"by 48"



Lost Edge 15 and 13, 2007 (cropped) acrylic, oil on canvas, 46"by 48", 46" by 48"



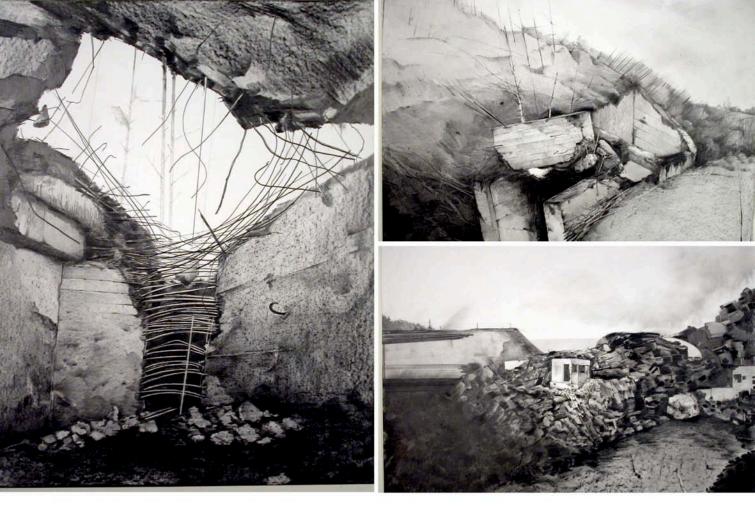
Lost Edge 16, 2007 (cropped) acrylic on canvas, 46"by 48"



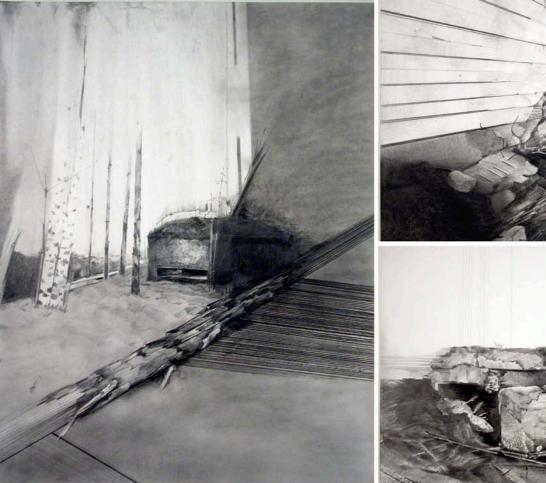
Lost Edge 17 and 19, 2008 acrylic on canvas, 48"by 60", 48"by 60"



Lost Edge 18, 2008 (cropped) acrylic on canvas, 46"by 48"



Drawings from Cutting Edge Series, 2007 pencil on paper, 23"by 29"







Drawings from Cutting Edge Series, 2007 pencil on paper, 23"by 29"



Lost Edge 21, 2008 (cropped) acrylic on canvas, 46"by 48"



Lost Edge 22, 2008 acrylic on canvas, 48"by 60"



Lost Edge 23, 2008 acrylic on canvas, 60"by 72"



Lost Edge 24, 2009 acrylic on canvas, 60"by 72"



Lost Edge 25, 2009 acrylic on canvas, 60"by 48"



Lost Edge 29, 2009 acrylic on canvas, 48"by 60"



Lost Edge 30, 2009 acrylic on canvas, 48"by 60"



Lost Edge 28 and 27, 2009 acrylic on canvas, 46"by 48", 46"by 48"



Last One 1, 2009 acrylic on canvas, 60"by48"



