

Susan Hurrell Fieldes

185 chairs

she'd stumbled on the end of the world

rubble

desolation

weeds....some daring to flower.....like some warped notion of hope

birds flying where congregations once walked

silence

wire fences to keep the living out and the dead safely contained

then.....as if to make some sense..

....some order in the chaos....

185 white chairs.....sitting there.....in rows.....on make-believe grass..

how could an event so horrific.. be so calm and serene.....so orderly.....so beautiful....the sense of chaos ...of rawness and horror put aside

the tension between the graphic expression of horror and beauty is so fine.

Artists through time have used chairs to symbolise an absent person. This body of work was prompted by the installation of 185 empty chairs in the middle of Christchurch, after the earthquakes in 2011. 185 people lost their lives.

The process i have used in the main 185 chairs piece is drypoint etching on mylar and stencils.

February 2016

