

Under the Surface

For as long as I can remember I always wanted to be an artist, little did I know then that this would involve going down an open mine and being kitted out in safety gear with the words in my head “don’t worry it is all safe as you have 12 hours of oxygen should you need it in case of an emergency!!”. It is my choice to face such challenges and I feel very privileged to be able to share such experiences through my art practice.

The scale of the project is usually enormous, as I have to grasp technical information very quickly, understand scientific knowledge in a new field of expertise, search for reference materials and interpreting the results visually. In this painting, showing inside the mine (looking left to right), I show the drill core materials, microscopic mineral elements, vertical coloured drill core geo-coordinates, me – the artist using my mobile camera, floating particles and gold nuggets, leading to the museum art installation with children interacting with the hemispherical projection dome.

It is very exciting to be working creatively, using all my senses to mentally record a situation that enhances the technology I use, as well as my notes and sketches. A conversation often leads to a new idea and I try to visualise that story in my head thinking how I can bring that to an audience and be able to retain that sense of the human history and artefact. The process of making the work is as exciting as the end result.