

### *Parole*

This painting is representative of the parole system and the depth of feeling that it evokes. Anyone awaiting a parole answer is under a tremendous amount of pressure.

The painting is meant to portray the anxiety and confusion I feel at such times. The way I'm metaphysically torn apart by this All Important Question, when all I want is answers. The fact that my 'head is in bits'. Part of me searches for light at the end of the tunnel, but the way is blocked to me by untold faceless bureaucrats. I dream of the world outside, but my memories have become faded like aged sepia tinted photographs, and it's like part of me doesn't want to see as it's too painful and there is an element of institutionalisation. While another part of me yearns for the wings of freedom. The deep red is significant of the confusion/anger that clouds my mind. I feel like a robot at such times, like I'm in a fugue like state and running on automatic, and everything is inverted. The curtains represent the shroud of despair that envelopes me as a little bit of me dies with each refusal.

Gary Critchley, 2007