
• nellie castan gallery

PRESS RELEASE

darren wardle: SPACEJUNK

30 november – 23 december 2006

Wardle's spectacularly trashy aesthetic is easily identifiable as he subverts the purity of Modernist Architecture with a toxic colour palette that blasts its way to the edges of the canvas and beyond. Reconfiguring both the urbane and iconic in our cities, **Wardle** explores contemporary sub/urban space and the ways by which it infuses our popular conceptions of identity and models of cultural production.

These new paintings depict cityscapes and domestic environments emptied of human inhabitants and painted in saturated colours. Investigating over-designed landscapes and junked-up architecture, **Wardle** presents a hyper real landscape indelibly mediated by technology.



Los Angeles and Las Vegas hold a particular fascination for **Wardle**, who revels in overexposed and hallucinatory visions of utopian architecture in dystopian cities. Exterior and interior spaces are deliberately confused, alluding to the melding of public/private and domestic/corporate spheres. *Spacejunk* engages with a heightened level of spatial dimensionality, alongside stunning depictions of aberrant architectural motifs from the sprawl of Melbourne, Sydney, L.A. and Vegas.

A recent studio residency at the Gunnery at Artspace in Sydney has provided a rich source of material and ideas. The iconic Rose Seidler House in Sydney is heavily featured: distorted, broken down, recontextualized and relocated in flashy casino style environments, as Seidler's cool International Modernism meets the Post Modern freakshow of Vegas.

2006 has shaped up to be the most exciting year yet for **Wardle**: in addition to the Gunnery Studio residency, he received an Arts Victoria Grant (International Program) enabling him to stage his current solo exhibition at Stux Gallery in New York. **Wardle** has exhibited major works in numerous exhibitions in New York and Los Angeles, including *LAX art* 2005 at MC Gallery, LA; *The Armory Show* with Stux Gallery and *Surface Tension*, a major international show of new painting at the Chelsea Art Museum, both in New York in 2004.

Wardle's career has spanned more than a decade exploring suburban themes and the interface between digital technology and painting. His work has been included in prominent texts, such as Dr Chris Mc Auliffe's "Art and Suburbia", and numerous articles. His paintings are held in significant corporate and public collections including the National Gallery of Victoria. *Spacejunk* will be **Wardle's** fourth solo exhibition at Nellie Castan Gallery and promises to astonish.

for images and further information please contact olivia@nelliecastangallery.com

level 1, 12 river street, south yarra, victoria 3141
opening: 6 – 8pm thursday 30 november
exhibition ends: sunday 24 december
hrs: tuesday to sunday 12–5pm t: 03 9804 7366
