
• nellie castan gallery

MEDIA RELEASE

Marina Strocchi: new paintings

2 June – 25 June 2005

Brought up in an Italian Australian family in Melbourne, Strocchi studied art then moved to Paris to study French and tour Europe for two years, soaking up the art and architecture. After returning to Melbourne in 1987 she worked as a screenprint artist with various groups in the community. In 1992 she was invited to establish the Ikuntji Art Centre at Haasts Bluff in Central Australia. The artists there developed a fresh feel for painting and are well represented in public collections.

Marina's time in the Northern Territory has been essential to her current art practice as featured in her 2005 exhibition at Nellie Castan Gallery. Strocchi's points of reference are varied and she finds inspiration in art from ancient cultures like Egyptian, Roman, Minoan, Incan, Aboriginal, twentieth century artists such as Picasso, Matisse, Klee and African art. The Melbourne Roar artists, who she befriended in 1982 have been a great support as well as an inspiration. The Northern Territory landscapes and man made objects within them are a feature of Marina's work. Marina plays with the notion of patterning from nature with flat maze-like shapes, scattered with naïve symbols of trees, animals and cars. However, look closer and a narrative becomes apparent. In part reflection, in part observation, Marina's paintings are direct and express the landscape and life around her. The colours she uses further her connection with the land by utilizing browns, reds, white and yellow.



For me, the most important lesson I learnt from working so closely with the artists of the Central desert, was that one must jump into a canvas head first and just go for it.....it always gave me a thrill to watch someone start like that. - (Marina Strocchi)

While not overt in terms of her tackling of paint on the canvas, the deeply felt exuberance she feels for the land seeps from these canvases in gentle waves. That may sound mawkish, but under the confident gestures of Strocchi's painting one cannot help but be seduced but the colouration, the structure, the strange road maps of this artists life.

- (Jan Murphy Gallery)

The paintings featured on exhibition at Nellie Castan Gallery respond to both personal and distant relationships Strocchi has had with her surroundings and life in the thirteen years she has lived in the Northern Territory. Strocchi has confirmed her own highly personal language and passage.

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

level 1, 12 river street, south yarra, victoria 3141
opening: 6 – 8pm saturday 3 march
exhibition ends: sunday 25 march
hrs: tuesday to sunday 12–5pm t: 03 9804 7366
