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# • nellie castan gallery

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### marina strocchi: new paintings

28 June – 22 July 2007

#### opening preview thursday 5 july 6-8pm

Marina Strocchi's layered paint surfaces reveal a rich and independent visual vocabulary, transforming the everyday activities of place into visual rhythms. Living in the Northern Territory for the past 15 years, Strocchi draws inspiration from community life and her surroundings, injecting the luminous colours of the Central Australian desert into her paintings.

Strocchi shapes her aesthetic from the ways in which the country is inhabited, reflecting the patterns of nature and human habitation in the remote landscape. Her works feature a strong narrative recounted through familiar icons of the Northern Territory: meandering desert roads, machinery, bush tucker, flora and fauna are interconnected in a flattened plane of perspective.

*"The landscape gets into your blood. The hills, glorious mountain ranges, the colours. Its breathtaking"* – (Marina Strocchi in Frances Atkinson, 'Desert Dreams', The Age 18/6/05)



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.

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, where she played a crucial role in facilitating women's painting and collaborations. The artists there developed a fresh feel for painting and are well represented in public collections.

Having received an Arts NT grant in 2005, Strocchi has completed a suite of etchings with Northern Editions at Charles Darwin University. Strocchi has exhibited in Paris, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Alice Springs and Darwin, and in 2006 was included in The Sound of the Sky: the Northern Territory in Australian Art at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. Her work is in many public and private collections, including the National Gallery of Victoria, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Powerhouse Museum, Artbank, BHP Billiton and Macquarie Bank. This is her fifth solo exhibition at Nellie Castan Gallery.

for images and further information please contact [olivia@nelliecastangallery.com](mailto:olivia@nelliecastangallery.com)

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level 1, 12 river street, south yarra, victoria 3141

**opening: 6-8pm thursday 22 june**

exhibition ends: sunday 28 july

hrs: tuesday to sunday 12-5pm t: 03 9804 7366

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