

# Marina Strocchi: *Territoryscapes*

6 - 27 March 2010

Marina Strocchi's layered and textured 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 18 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, introduced animals, native flora and fauna are interconnected in a flattened plane of perspective.

Strocchi's points of reference are varied and she finds inspiration from the art of ancient cultures for example Egyptian, Roman, Minoan, Incan, Aboriginal and African art (old and new), twentieth century artists such as Picasso, Matisse, Klee, and hand made textiles from all parts of the world.

Aged fourteen Strocchi began regularly visiting museums and public and commercial galleries. In 1982 she met her future husband Wayne Eager at the opening of Roar studios. Those years were educative and inspiring as she got to know the "ROAR" group of artists and watched them work. In the 1990s Strocchi lived in the remote Western Desert, working at Haasts Bluff, Kintore and Kiwirrkurra in the capacity known as "art advisor" though she says "really the chores involved in the job were of a more practical nature than the title suggests". She painted during this time. For the last decade she has lived and painted in Alice Springs, making occasional journeys north, west or south.

Strocchi has exhibited in Paris, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Canberra, Perth, Hobart, 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. In 2009 was selected to be in the *Salon des Refusés* (The alternative Archibald and Wynne Prize) S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney.

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 sixth solo exhibition at Nellie Castan Gallery.

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