
• nellie castan gallery

PRESS RELEASE

Megan Walch: *The End of Gravity*

1 - 29 March 2008

The works in this exhibition present ideas behind what is emphasised upon the surface. It considers how the natural in contemporary life is subverted by the artificial; by the desire to materialise everything imagined. The lush, succulent fantasy worlds of **Walch's** are obscured by twists and turns in the form. Somewhere in the process of unravelling the forms, the viewer realises that amongst these images are sinister tones. The brightly coloured, playful, abstracted forms of landscapes and icons of pop culture project a sense of unsettling conjecture. Clashes in culture are apparent with contrasts of both eastern and western iconography, melding into objects of cultural borrowings, with noted mistakes, misattributions and misunderstandings that lead to a new interpretation of identity in today's age.



Walch paints on canvas, and also directly onto the gallery wall – an intimate and immediate medium for viewers to engage. Featured in *The End of Gravity* will be nine 40 x 40cm works on coloured bookcloth – this new medium allows another dimension to her work. The re-textualising of a material represents the impermanence of an object, and in turn the ephemerality of life. **Walch's** painting is all about how the surface is used to define 'the essence of our times'.

I paint forms that have the power to deform themselves constantly, to pass quickly from the familiar to the unfamiliar - using the mutable medium of paint fixed as fluid to express states of flux and instability. Distortion and mutation highlight the perpetual fluctuation between abstraction and its point of origin in the visible world - to cross cultural as well as aesthetic boundaries of form.

Having graduated from the Tasmanian School of Art in 1989, **Walch** was awarded a Samstag Scholarship to complete a Masters Degree at San Francisco and secured a scholarship at the prestigious Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine. She has undertaken residencies in Asia with the Australia Council and Asialink. **Walch** currently lives in both Hobart and Spain. She is represented the following collections: Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Adelaide University, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, University of South Australia, Artbank, Australian National University, Monterey Museum and Art Gallery, Novell Corporation (Utah, USA), General Electric Co. (NY, USA) and Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

for images and full biography please contact olivia@nelliecastangallery.com

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

opening: 6 - 8pm saturday 1 march

exhibition ends: saturday 29 march

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