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# • nellie castan gallery

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### ***Penelope Davis: Fiction-Non-Fiction***

**10 April – 3 May 2008**

**Penelope Davis** produces 'photograms', photographs without the use of a camera. By creating a transparent copy of an object by moulding and casting objects in clear resin and then placing the object onto photographic paper and exposing it to coloured light, **Davis** creates images that are saturated in colour and enigmatic in nature. **Davis** says, 'The final images are not simple photographs but record a process - a chain of transformations and inversions - that creates the trace of an object many steps removed from its origin'.

**Davis'** works play with photography's conventions, producing images that are recognisable as photographic but which make the processes of their creation and the origins of their subject matter mysterious. In *Fiction-Non-Fiction* **Davis** has introduced the book as the primary object of representation. **Davis** says,



*Some of my recent works use books as a central motif. They reference the largely redundant medium of cloth or leather-bound embossed books, and play with a range of associations common to books and photography – both are visual mediums created by mechanical print processes and both are repositories of personal and collective memory. Like photography itself, the working process transforms the substance of the original referent into something other - a ghostly, absent shadow of itself.*

Penelope Davis is regularly selected for important group exhibitions, the most recent including the *William and Winifred Bowness Photography Prize* (2007), Monash Gallery of Art, the *Josephine Ulrich and Wynn Schubert Photography Award* (2007), Gold Coast City Art Gallery, *Fremantle Print Award* (2007), Fremantle Arts Centre, and *Light Sensitive: Contemporary Australian Photography* (2006), National Gallery of Victoria. Other prestigious group exhibitions include the *Moët and Chandon Touring Exhibition*, touring all Australian State Galleries in 1999, and *First Impressions* at the National Gallery of Victoria in 2003. In 2007 she won the ANZ Visual Arts Award.

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

**opening: 6-8pm thursday 10 april**

exhibition ends: saturday 3 may

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

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