

MEDIA RELEASE

Wayne Eager: New Paintings

2 – 24 December 2004

Wayne Eager is an artist of integrity whose life has been devoted to discovering the purity of painting. A founding member of Roar Studios which predominantly exhibited the neo-expressionist work of young Melbourne artists; Eager has been a significant contributor to modern developments in Australian landscape painting defining him more specifically as an abstract expressionist painter.

Eager has lived in Central Australia for the last 12 years, Alice Springs since 1998. Having lived for over a decade far from Australia's urban centres, **Eager's** paintings have developed an even stronger bond with the land and are clearly influenced by the Indigenous artists with whom he has worked over this period.

Eager saw the work of the Central Desert artists when Gabrielle Pizzi first exhibited Papunya Tula work at Roar Studios in the early '80s. In the early '90s **Eager** travelled with to the desert and out to Aboriginal communities and in 1992 he went to live at Haasts Bluff, assisting in the establishment of the Ikuntji Art Centre. **Eager** lived and painted there for five and a half years. In 1996 he started regular field trips to Kintore and Kiwirrkurra as field officer for Papunya Tula artists.

My paintings are arrived at through a distillation process of a series of overlaid marks and shapes. In the 1990s I was more interested in a depiction of the landscape surrounds, whilst now the paintings are more non-representational (abstract).

Other influences **Eager** sites are the modernist era artists such as Picasso, Klee, Matisse and Cobra and from Australia Ian Fairweather and Tony Tuckson.

Eager has exhibited widely around Australia is well represented in major public collections including the National Gallery of Australia and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney. This is his second solo exhibition at Nellie Castan Gallery.

Images and further information available on request: dana@nelliecastangallery.com.au