

Press Release

DESERT NOTES

An exhibition of works by
JENNI MITCHELL and **MERVYN HANNAN**
Painting, dioramas, sculpture and photography

date: February 23 to March 29, 2007-01-29

place: Meeniyan Art Gallery 24 Whitelaw Street, Meeniyan

phone: 5663 0101

The selected works were created over a number of years from journeys to the desert sand salt and sky heart of Australia's Lake Eyre and the Flinders Ranges country.

Jenni Mitchell and Mervyn Hannan have been immersed in the Australian Desert for many years. Jenni as a visual artist with her canvas, camera and sketch book; Mervyn with his clay and chisel.

This exhibition is a culmination of works from many of these journeys. The works depicts images of spacial distance, desert floor detail, man made and natural phenomena.

The two artists have worked in the South Australian outback during the dry and when the landscape has been transformed through flood.

Lake Eyre has a transcending quality for Jenni – it's comparison to the dazzling white Arctic and Antarctic ice fields when standing on the blaze of salt crust and the myriad patterns to the mirror like quality of the lakes shallow flood waters and the Southern Ocean stillness beneath the icefloes. (She has travelled as an artist-in-residence to the Antarctic and Arctic).

Lake Eyre is the spiritual and physical heart of our country. Look at a map – and sense the exquisiteness of it's dazzling beauty and size inside her clay sand edge or the peer from above; at dawn, midday and dusk. The intensity and clarity of light, the crescendo innuendo of wind or death still silence. The desert is harsh and soft.'

Mervyn lived in the Flinders Ranges during the 1990s and spent his time restoring many of the old stone and wattle and daub buildings in the towns and outback stations. Much of his artwork is influenced by these constructions along with the Ghan line; the railway line that runs vertical through the country. The old Ghan line is a source of history and found objects – the footprint of another era. And then there is the footprint of the First Australian – symbols and objects of the Aboriginal still found strewn across the inland landscape.

For further information please contact the artists directly on:

(03) 9439 3458

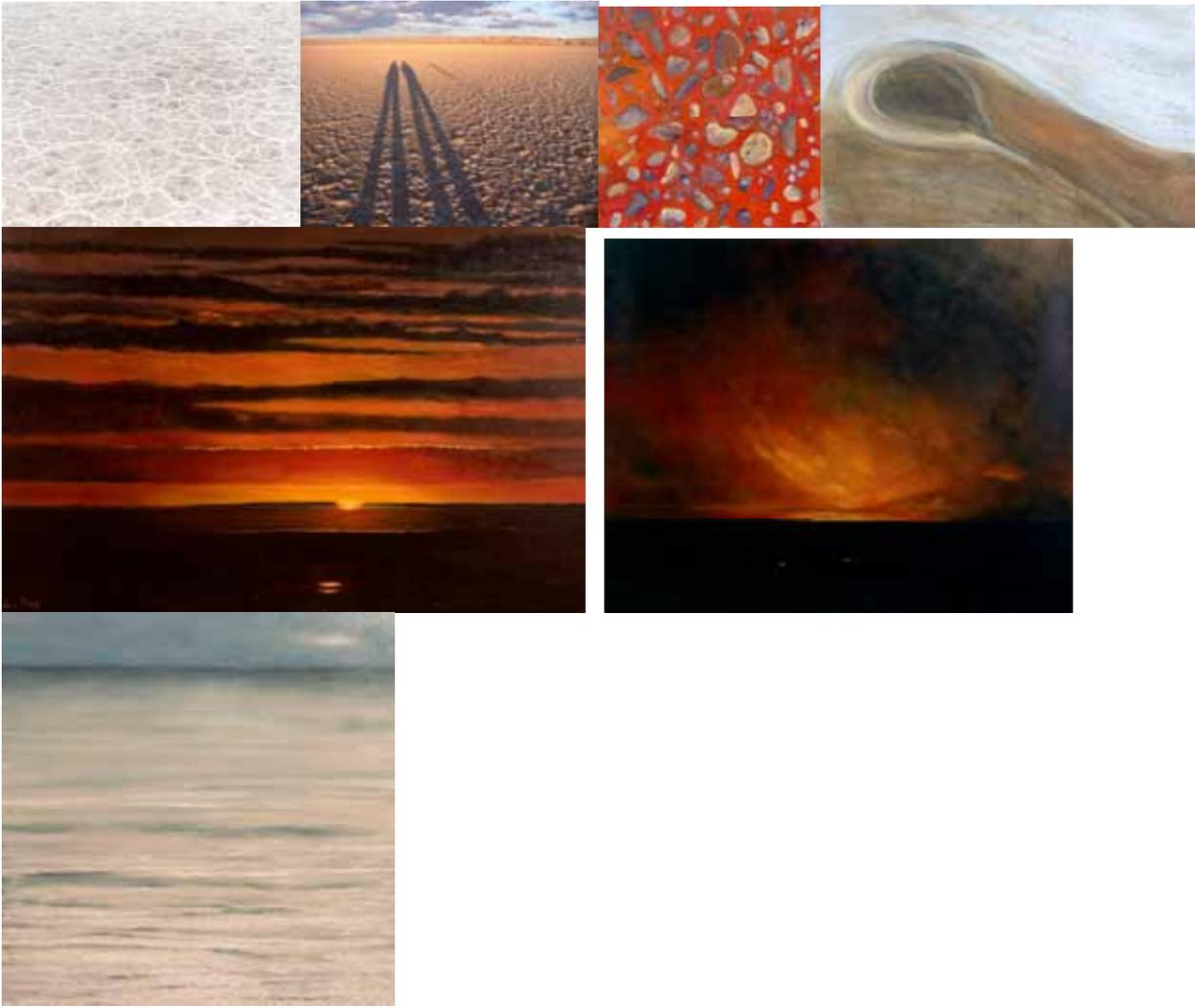
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Dioramas and constructions by Mervyn Hannan



Photography and Painting by Jenni Mitchell