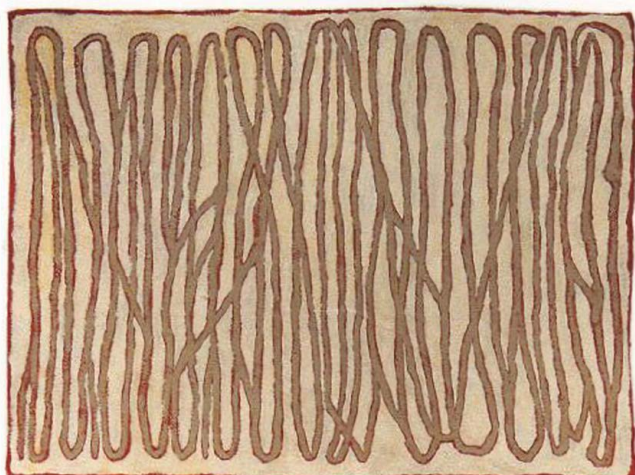


Taking a line for a walk



Marina Strocchi, *Eucalypts I*, 2018. acrylic on handmade Indian rag paper. 60 x 75.5cm; image courtesy the artist and Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane

Marina Strocchi has lived in Central Australia since 1992, and her work responds to the unique environment of the region. Strocchi explores several motifs across her new body of work 'Terra Firma' (on show at Brisbane's Jan Murphy Gallery from 9 April to 4 May), employing acrylic and oxides on linen as well as handmade recycled Indian rag paper. Boulder, lozenge and oblong shapes are stacked or nestled in many paintings, bringing to mind vertical stone wall structures or aerial views of subdivided farmland, or evoking haphazard village rooftops. In most paintings, the inner shapes are painted in light shades of pink or beige, suggesting the brilliant glare of light in the desert, with darker underpainted colours allowed to breathe through and form the linear elements. Some of these compositions are bordered by floret-like protrusions which further destabilise preconceived readings of landscape. Another group of paintings sees Strocchi 'taking a line for a walk' as it were, leading the viewer's eye dynamically around the canvas.