



# MEDIA RELEASE

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BELCONNEN ARTS CENTRE

ABN: 63254459205  
118 Emu Bank BELCONNEN ACT  
PO Box 183 BELCONNEN ACT 2616  
Phone: 02 6163 3300  
Fax: 02 6173 3301  
info@belconnenartscentre.com.au

## **CARMEL McCROW – *Dancing in the Desert***

**Exhibition opening: 4:00pm Saturday 14 November**

Belconnen based painter Carmel McCrow offers visitors to the Belconnen Arts Centre a powerful solo exhibition of major works based on her experiences of the Australian desert. Representation of the land is a strong theme in McCrow's work, and in April of last year she was able to fulfil her desire to visit the Central Desert.

Carmel says, "My first feelings were of the immensity of the land and how solid and immovable it all appeared. In this initial time of adjusting to surroundings, it was better to just sit, listen and watch than to try to paint or to take photos."

Over time, she became intrigued to discover the subtle sounds coming from the countryside, along with the solitude and peace of the environment. McCrow felt that a feeling for the country was slowly creeping into her soul. The cries of dingoes and owls at night, the swish of afternoon wind through the trees, and the crack of dry branches breaking the stillness all captivated McCrow's imagination.

The exhibition title, ***Dancing in the Desert***, refers to the moment of realisation when Carmel was finally able to capture the mystery of the land in her painting. Overwhelmed, she danced for joy. ***Dancing in the Desert*** is a journey of the mind in which McCrow has brought the spirit of the desert home. The process of painting has taught her that the seemingly solid desert landscape is intensely alive and moving. Breezes dance across the surface of the land, lifting small quantities of sand and whisking them elsewhere. Slowly, the surfaces of the rocks have been breaking down over millennia, evolving through countless years to form new shapes and stories.

Originally trained at the National Art School in Sydney, McCrow found inspiration for her painting while living in the Snowy Mountains and subsequently completed a BA (Visual) at the ANU School of Art in 2004.

Come and hear McCrow speak about her work and experiences at the Artist's Talk on:  
**Saturday 21 November at 4:00pm**

**The exhibition continues until Sunday 29 November**  
**Gallery hours: 10:00am – 6:00pm Tuesday – Sunday**  
**For further information contact: Christine Watson: 02 6173 3304**

Belconnen Arts Centre is an ACT Government  
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Visit [www.belconnenartscentre.com.au](http://www.belconnenartscentre.com.au)

