

## George Raftopoulos

George Raftopoulos's recent paintings display a fresh energetic approach, hearkening back to his original concerns with mark-making. These new works have been given more room to breathe, movement and space allowing the eye to explore the path of the marks and also to find reprieve in large soft fields of colour. Interested with the accumulation of the process of this mark-making, we can observe the underlying structure, literally the bones of the painting.

*George Raftopoulos was born in Sydney in 1972, the son of Greek parents. His childhood, from the age of five, was spent in the New South Wales town of Grenfell. In the 1970s, the Raftopouloses found themselves to be the only Greek family in the town. In this context, as a youth, George ruminated on questions of cultural identity. They are questions his paintings continue to plumb.*

*George Raftopoulos speaks of his painting as "mapping the memory". He refers to his paintings incorporating fragmentary references to places he has been, events he has witnessed, and sensations he has experienced. He refers, too, to his paintings touching aspects of his race memory, aspects of his cultural lineage.*

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