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Art Gallery
of Western Australia

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Abstract Earth: The Photography of Richard Woldendorp



Abstract Earth: The Photography of Richard Woldendorp showcases the incredible skill of this early pioneer of aerial photography, as it is almost impossible to distinguish whether his untouched photographic works are photographs or indeed painted works of art.

Woldendorp's first aerial landscapes date from the 1960s, but it was a genre that he rapidly made his own. Nowadays, as a veteran of many flights and with seventeen books and numerous exhibitions behind him, the Dutch-born Woldendorp is acknowledged as a giant of Australian photography.

Abstract Earth is not just landscape; it's the landscape as seen by Woldendorp, who trained as a painter and still views the world through a painter's eye. Although each picture in the exhibition is a precise record of a landscape seen from the air, these scenes have the power and presence of large abstract paintings. Many works bear a striking resemblance to the canvases of Abstract Expressionists and

Colour-Field painters, and to the works of Aboriginal artists. They may look like works of the imagination, but they are indeed astonishing records of concrete reality.

Seen together, Woldendorp's images reveal the incredible beauty and diversity of this country. As such, he has created a unique and important body of work that challenges how we experience and understand our place within the Australian landscape.

**Curated by John McDonald and R. Ian Lloyd, *Abstract Earth: The Photography of Richard Woldendorp* is on display at the Art Gallery of Western Australia Saturday 1 August – Sunday 8 November 2009.
Opening hours 10am – 5pm Closed Tuesdays. FREE**

Richard Woldendorp
Coastline between Esperance and Cape Arid, Western Australia
2006
Lambda digital print
140 x 105 cm
Courtesy of the artist

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES CONTACT:

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