

Profiles



Debra Luccio, *Trouve Moi*, (detail), 2010, monotype on velin arches, 76 x 95 cm

Debra Luccio
Images of Dance - Australian & New York Dancers
Steps Gallery
September 3 to 26
Melbourne

Curated by Mary Tokatlidis, this exhibition offers a unique look at performance. Debra's new paintings and monotypes showcase images created through her collaboration with the renowned New York-based Rebecca Kelly Ballet and the Queensland Ballet.

It is not often an artist has the privilege to sit in on dance rehearsals. Quietly hidden in the corner, Debra observes and draws dancers practicing their craft. Her prints reveal the figure in every stage of the creation of performance, allowing the viewer an unusually wide view of dancers' immersive strain and commitment to the creation of beauty on stage.

About Rebecca Kelly Ballet



Drawing at Rebecca Kelly Ballet in March 2010. Photo by Filippo Messina.

REBECCA KELLY BALLET is a contemporary ensemble based in SoHo, New York City, and the Adirondack Mountains. They have performed in major New York City theaters, toured and taught throughout the USA and Europe since 1980.

Rebecca Kelly fuses classical dance with modern forms resulting in an arresting lyrical yet earthy quality. The provocative and poetical works involve the sheer energy and beauty of the highly skilled dancer and the complex use of the body. Stage productions are refreshingly varied and accessible, often featuring original scores. Classical line and touching performance, coupled with intense musicality and energy distinguish each of Kelly's works.

With an extensive repertory of both modern and ballet works, Kelly is described as "*at ease in classical as well as contemporary styles,*" and one "*who choreographs with boldness and imagination...high emotion through pure movement*" by The New York Times.

MY THOUGHTS

I was privileged to meet Rebecca Kelly herself at the opening of my exhibition in New York in March 2010. She generously invited me to her dance studio to sketch her dancers in rehearsal. Being involved at such a raw stage of creation and sitting so close to the dancers as they pushed themselves to perfect a performance was incredibly exciting. Seeing the dancers in their light-filled studio inspired me to experiment with the light and colour in my artwork. As a result I created work that is distinctly different to my past work.