

## Renowned Australian Artist Launches Breathtaking Exhibit 'Manhattan Dreaming'

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Marco Luccio, renowned Australian artist, will open his latest groundbreaking exhibition in September at fortyfivedownstairs, a respected Melbourne institution.

A breathtaking collection of works, 'Manhattan Dreaming' is the culmination of Luccio's years' long love affair with New York and its architecture, energy and landscape.

"I'm always aiming to push the boundaries," says Luccio.

"This exhibition is the most dramatic of any I've done before.

Some of the paintings span six feet in width or height, and they

were all done in situ. I was spending hours on the streets, painting, and I think that's allowed me to capture the rhythms and energy of New York."

With Luccio's traditional spontaneous, instinctive style, and his use of bold colours and expressive mark making, 'Manhattan Dreaming' perfectly captures the city of New York.

People and traffic are rendered in a dreamy haze, and the in situ nature of the painting process gives a layered, nuanced vision of the city. The progression of colours throughout the day overlaps and intertwines, and buildings are rendered in a chunky, textural way.

Complementing the canvas-grounded hustle and bustle are Luccio's drypoints which delightfully capture the unabashed eccentricity and character of some of the city's most legendary haunts.

"I love the diners, the familiarity of a regular place to eat where people remember your name and say hello," says Luccio.

"In these places you hear wonderful stories and see the most interesting people and I have loved capturing this aspect this time around.

"I've been lucky enough to gain access to spectacular locations such as the top of the Chrysler building and on rooftops scattered around Manhattan.

"Some paintings are done at street level, but others are rendered from a bird's eye view, painted from the top floors of iconic buildings. What could be more wonderful than viewing the city from the perspective of the gargoyles on top of the Chrysler building?"

