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## 14 ARTS

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## Child's play for Peter-Toltz

STRADDLING the fuzzy realm between reality and fiction, the latest series of paintings by Marie Peter-Toltz reads like a childhood fairytale. "In this current series of oil paintings, I fused drawings of real-life models, photographs of myself as a child, and the memory of childhood scenes," Peter-Toltz says. *Where The Trail of Miracles Ran Cold*, pictured, is the most important piece in her exhibition, *Prologues*. "They are four different girls but they could also be the different aspects of one person," she says. Over the past 18 months, the France-born painter and wife of Australian Booker-shortlisted author Steve Toltz has spent time painting in the US and France. This dreamy series is the product of that nomadic time. "I've always worked while I'm travelling. I carry the paints with me in a box on the plane." *Prologues* is at Sydney's Gaffa Gallery from Thursday until February 21.

BRIDGET CORMACK