



MEDIA RELEASE

Gallery 4A Asia-Australia Arts Centre

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26 April - 7 June 2008

SELLING OUT Meng-Shu You

PERMISSION SLIP Roy Ananda

SILVERHAND Clara Chow

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Gallery 4A presents three new exhibitions by three young artists Clara Chow, Meng-Shu You and Roy Ananda from Sydney and Adelaide. Their exhibitions explore ideas of creative process, cultural tension and translation through video, sculpture and mixed media installation.

The three exhibitions run from 26 April to 7 June 2008. There will be public artist talks held at Gallery 4A on Saturday 24 May at 2pm.

Sydney-based artist Clara Chow's exhibition *Silverhand* includes two video works, *Angelica* and *Deconstructive Princess*. *Silverhand* takes its name from a Cantonese phrase, which roughly translates to "having an itching arse". This crude phrase is used to refer to someone who meddles in other people's business. This pun sets the tone for the exhibition. *Angelica*, Chow's newest work, depicts an interview with the artist's sister and mother about finding a pornographic video on her brother's mp3 player. *Deconstructive Princess* is a seven-channel video of deconstructed scenes from a Peking Opera. The artist uses popular culture images to explore translation problems and language barriers. Subtitles act as a unifying visual theme in both videos-critical in one and frustratingly useless in another.

Selling Out, by Sydney-based Taiwan-born artist Meng-shu You, critically examines today's culture of mass consumption. The ground floor gallery is transformed to look like a commercial shop. Shelves are filled with hundreds of blue and white patterned china pieces and candles shaped like characters from popular culture. You has lived in Taiwan, America and Australia and her experiences of these cultures are explored in her ceramic and mixed media pieces. *Selling Out* not only comments on the impact of America on Taiwanese culture but also the cultural challenges arising from living in an age of globalisation.

Meng-shu You was born in I-lan, Taiwan, studied fine arts at Michigan State University in the United States and currently lives in Sydney. She has shown her work around the world, participating in solo and group exhibitions in Taiwan, South Korea, Germany, China, Australia and America.

Roy Ananda's work *Permission Slip* is the most recent in a six-year-long series of sculptural constructions. Each work in the project uses the same materials, reinvented in response to the previous work and adapted to fit their environment. The works combine formal elements of high art with a humorous side of popular culture. Ananda's larger-than-life sculptures are influenced by the exaggerated physicality of popular cartoons and movie personalities. The artist lives and works in Adelaide but will be in Sydney prior to the exhibition.

Roy Ananda's exhibition is supported by ArtsSA. He has exhibited his work throughout Australia in art spaces including the Dianne Tanzer Gallery, Melbourne; Downtown Art Space, Adelaide; and The Project Space at the Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia. In 2005 he was included in Primavera at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney.

Images: Meng-shu You, *Coca-colonisation*, 2006, ceramic, mixed media. Photo: courtesy the artist.