

MEDIA RELEASE

Gallery 4A Asia-Australia Arts Centre
181-187 Hay Street Sydney NSW 2000
FREE ADMISSION
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14 June – 26 July 2008

Fears of a Jaded Descent Vienna Parreño

Contact Aaron Seeto 9212 0380 or 0418618324 or email media@4a.com.au
for program information, hi-res images or media interviews.



FEARS OF A JADED DESCENT Vienna Parreño

Gallery 4A, the Asia-Australia Arts Centre presents an exhibition of work by Vienna Parreño, a young Filipina artist based in Sydney. Parreño works in a variety of media, including performance, installations and digital video. Her most recent project, *Fears of a Jaded Descent*, was created during a residency at the Red Gate Gallery, Beijing, China. The exhibition at Gallery 4A will be the first time this work will be presented to the public.

Fears of a Jaded Descent is a floor-to-ceiling installation which will dramatically transform the ground floor space of Gallery 4A. Parreño's installation will be visible from the front window of the gallery to the multitudes of passerbys en route in Chinatown's Hay Street, where Gallery 4A is located. Using strands of fine gold filament, a number of large red paint brushes will be suspended from the ceiling, stopping just a few breathtaking inches above the floor. The artist will leave an inscription made from pigment under the pointed ends of these paintbrushes. Parreño began this project as a part of a residency at Studio One at Red Gate Gallery, while reflecting on her own career as a young artist in the midst of Beijing's flourishing arts scene. The work transpired when she discovered an ancient tradition whereby Chinese emperors would have their tombs constructed out of jade and gold thread, believing that it would prevent their bodies from decaying after death. Parreño's work will be an allegorical reference to this archaic ritual.

Vienna Parreño is a PhD Candidate in the School of Media Arts at the College of Fine Arts, UNSW. She also received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Time Based Arts from COFA in 2000. In 2006, Parreño was awarded the UNSW COFA Student Travel Conference Grant and performed at the 31st UNESCO International Theatre Institute World Congress and Art Olympics of the Nations. Parreño has exhibited and participated in performances at such venues as Don't Look New Media Gallery, Sydney; Blue Room Art Gallery, Philippines; 975Howard Performance & Art Space, San Francisco, USA; and at the Revelation Perth International Film Festival, Australia.

Vienna Parreño's *Fears of a Jaded Descent* will be on exhibition at Gallery 4A, the Asia-Australia Arts Centre from June 14 through July 26, 2008. *Roop – Rote – Ruang (Taste – Touch – Tell)*, by Melbourne-based Thai artist Vipoo Srivilasa, and *Lifeboat*, curated by Thai artist Michael Shaowanasai, will also be on exhibition at Gallery 4A during that time. All three artists will be present in Sydney for a corresponding series of public programmes. Dates and details will be released closer to the opening of the exhibition.

ARTIST TALK: Saturday, 21 June, 2pm

MEDIA CONTACT

Contact Aaron Seeto on 02 9212 0380 or 0418618324 or email media@4a.com.au
for further program information, images and interviews with artists.

Image: Vienna Parreno, *Fears of a Jaded Descent* (installation view, Studio One, Red Gate Gallery), 2008, paintbrushes, gold wire, paint.
Photo: courtesy the artist.