

# **SPEAKEASY**

**VERNON AH KEE**

**DANIEL BOYD**

**FIONA FOLEY**

**GORDON HOOKEY**

**GARY LEE**

**GINGER RILEY MUNDUWALAWALA**

**JASON WING + MARK BROWN**

**ZHOU XIAOPING**

**CURATED BY VERNON AH KEE + AARON SEETO**

**26 SEPTEMBER - 31 OCTOBER 2009**

**GALLERY4A**

**INVITATION**

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The Board of 4A invites you to the opening of

## **SPEAKEASY**

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On Friday 25 September 2009 6-8pm

At Gallery 4A  
181-187 Hay Street

Exhibition dates 26 September – 31 October 2009

### SPEAKEASY

Gallery 4A's upcoming group exhibition profiles Asian-Australian history entangled with an Aboriginal history of Australia.

SPEAKEASY, draws its title from the illegal and underground bars which operated during the prohibition period in 1920s America – out of sight, below the radar, yet part of a vital cultural dialogue. In this exhibition, the title refers to the longstanding contribution of Indigenous and Asian history, often overlooked in Australia's colonial history. This exhibition delves into previously untold stories in Australia and marks a fundamental shift in thinking about intercultural relationships, politics and geography.

In 2008, Gallery 4A hosted a symposium in which the artist and co-curator of this exhibition, Vernon Ah Kee presented a paper where he saw his own Chinese-heritage belonging within a 'Black History' of Australia. Following this trajectory, Ah Kee reverses a history of Australia which assumes all cultural difference in relation to a European (or white) imperative, making this exhibition potentially confronting.

The exhibition charts a range of relationships between Indigenous artists and Asian people and culture, through the familial, the political, the pre-colonial and periods of trade.

The project has been supported by Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, University of Technology, Sydney and Art and About.



### EVENTS CALENDAR

- ◇ SPEAKEASY - Opening  
Friday 25 September 6-8pm
- ◇ Fiona Foley and Professor Martin Nakata in Conversation. Convened by Vernon Ah Kee  
Saturday 26 September, 2pm  
Yarning Circle presented in association with the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning University of Technology Sydney
- ◇ Saturday Afternoon Literature event  
Saturday 10 October, 2pm  
Presented in association with Giramondo Publishing and the University of Western Sydney Writing and Society Research Group

## GALLERY4A

181-187 Hay Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
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tel: 02 9212 0380  
fax: 02 9281 0873

Open 11am-6pm,  
Tuesday - Saturday, closed public holidays



THE VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFT STRATEGY



Gallery 4A is an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists Association Inc (4A). We gratefully acknowledge our Principal Patrons Geoff and Vicki Ainsworth; Daniel and Lyndell Droga and Dr Dick Quan; Patrons Richard Funston, John Lam-Po-Tang, Kerr and Judith Neilson; Benefactors Peter Talbot and Dr Gene and Brian Sherman AM and Friends Ari and Lisa Droga, Phillip Haw, David Droga, Richard and Margie Holden, VisAsia, Annika Droga-Susskind, Isabella and Sam Droga, Ann Lewis, Peter Fay, Yeehwan Yeoh and Matt Cox, Liane Rossler, Brooke Aitken, Claire Armstrong and John Sharpe. The assistance of the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its funding and advisory body, the NSW Government through Arts NSW and the City of Sydney.

