

MEDIA RELEASE

Re-inventing Images of the Third World

One could say that we have become unnervingly accustomed to images of starving, poverty-stricken children in shock campaigns to fundraise for charitable organisations. A new initiative by Community Aid Abroad, however, offers an alternative to this genre of photography.

Anne Zahalka's series of photographs "Woven Threads: Picturing Tribal Women in Mindanao" is the result of a field trip to the Philippines where the artist worked with the T'boli and Manobo people.

These photographs stand in stark contrast to usual representations of third world disenfranchised people. The images of women in "Woven Threads" are an affirmation of the survival of indigenous culture told through the stories of different women.

The story of thirty three year old Lisa Timbang, for instance, whose life revolves around the four B's: Bata—Child, Balay—House, Bana—Husband and Baboy—Pig. She has eight children.

Zahalka has said: " I wanted to reference the history of colonial and ethnographic photography with its inherent stereotyping of race but also recognise its value in documenting its subjects".

Zahalka came to fame in the eighties with a consistent photographic practice of transforming famous paintings and images into ironic commentaries designed to deconstruct stereotypes. One of her best known series is a rendition of Tom Roberts' paintings. The revered masculine heroicness of Roberts' "The Breakaway" is averted by having a female central figure.

If you would like images or further information (including interviews) please contact Melissa Chiu, Curator, Tel. 92112245

Artist:	Anne Zahalka
Title of exhibition:	Woven Threads: Picturing Tribal Women in Mindanao
Preview:	Thursday 5th March, 6-8 pm
Dates:	6th - 21st March, 1998
Venue:	Gallery 4A, Room 3, Level 3, 405-411 Sussex St. Sydney