

MEDIA RELEASE

New Chinese Paintings - Paul Bai

Packaged Memories - Moko Halford

Gallery 4A is pleased to announce two new solo exhibitions by young artists, that examine the connection between Asian and Australian cultures.

Paul Bai's exhibition, *New Chinese Paintings*, is a continuation of his research into the way Chinese culture is often presented in Australia - as exotic and mysterious. Stereotyped Chinese icons and cultural clichés appear in Bai's works. He employs social realist and satirical strategies to produce a parody of a cultural parody, such as in the work titled "I like your country too". By confronting the colonial cultural perspective, Bai reveals the often superficial nature of cultural interpretation, and the limitations of current understandings of Chinese culture in Australian society.

Paul Bai is a young Brisbane-based artist, who arrived in Australia ten years ago from China. He recently exhibited in *Now* at the Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane. This is Bai's first solo show in Sydney.

Moko Halford's installation is both an exploration into her own hybrid identity and a personal tribute to her late father. Halford has created images of her family, by injecting agar-agar jelly into sheets of bubble-wrap packaging. This method creates the effect of a pixillated drawing. Halford's use of agar agar suggests the transition from one cultural environment (Japan) to another (Australia). Her use of packaging materials also alludes to the way in which she keeps in contact with her family - by sending packages through the post.

Moko Halford has participated in exhibitions at the Tin Sheds Gallery and The Performance Space in Sydney, and Campbelltown Bicentennial Art Gallery. This will be her first solo exhibition.

Gallery 1:	NEW CHINESE PAINTINGS: Paul Bai
Gallery 2:	Moko Halford
Preview:	Wednesday 18 August 1999, 6-8 pm
Dates:	18 August - 11 September 1999
Venue:	Gallery 4A, Level 3, 53-55 Liverpool St, Sydney, NSW, 2000 tel/fax 02 9283 1750
Gallery hours:	Wednesday - Saturday, 12-6pm, or by appointment
Contact:	Melissa Chiu, Curator, Tiffany Lee-Shoy, Asst Curator