

MEDIA RELEASE

Join the Party! - Neha Choksi & Nell

Civic Minded - Stephen Birch

Gallery 4A is pleased to announce two new exhibitions that explore human responses to a rapidly changing society.

Prompted by the rise of the One Nation Party, Neha Choksi & Nell are collaborating on an installation that transforms the gallery space into their own Nation. The exhibition, *Nell Nation/ Party Streamers*, explodes the propaganda symbols of a patriotic-society-gone-mad, whilst meditating on the personal victories of organised self-reliance. The artists describe their Nation as an "optimistic hand-made ploy for Utopia", with colourful flags proclaiming ownership of the Self, and party streamers celebrating a global consciousness.

Nell is a young Sydney-based artist who has held solo exhibitions in Sydney, Melbourne, Amsterdam and Los Angeles. Neha Choksi is a young Indian-American artist, currently based in New York while she completes her Doctorate in Classical Studies. Choksi has exhibited in India and Los Angeles. Her show with Nell at Gallery 4A will be the first time she has exhibited in Australia.

Stephen Birch's exhibition, *Civic Minded* continues his witty and compelling explorations into the status of the human body in social and psychological space. Birch's installation features a pair of floor-to-ceiling fibre glass sculptured trees. The tree forms are comfortable and familiar, and yet simultaneously bizarre for they are each equipped with a pair of human feet. As they face each other in deep conversation, their strange bodily rigidity and the promise of mobility collide.

Birch has exhibited at Room 35 and Side-on Gallery in Sydney, and has recently participated in *Unhomely*, an exhibition of Australian work travelling to Korea.

Gallery 1:	NELL NATION/ PARTY STREAMERS: Neha Choksi & Nell
Gallery 2:	CIVIC MINDED: Stephen Birch
Preview:	Wednesday 16 June 1999, 6-8 pm
Dates:	16 June - 10 July 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