

MEDIA RELEASE

Stitching in Time—Debra Porch & Harriet Parsons

A Positive Era of Change—Victoria Lobregat

Gallery 4A is pleased to announce two exhibitions that reflect on the passing of time in our everyday experiences.

Debra Porch and Harriet Parsons investigate aspects of mortality, using strands of hair to represent traces of their own existence. Parsons' exquisite insect embroideries are created with her own hair, stitched painstakingly into satin squares, and stretched onto embroidery hoops. Resembling scientific specimens, the works are infused with the investment of time - time taken for her to stitch, to analyse and to investigate the insect captured and frozen in time.

For Debra Porch, it is the loss of hair that represents the passing of time. Porch is concerned with the process of aging, the diminishing of memory and loss of personal stories and histories, which is most visibly suggested by the loss of hair. Porch positions her work somewhere between the endurance of human spirit and the growing fragility of the aging body.

Victoria Lobregat is commenting on our age of change. Continuing her investigation into the power of the symbol, begun at Gallery 4A in 1997 and then at *Primavera*, Museum of Contemporary Art in 1998, Lobregat juxtaposes images of sacred symbols and the everyday motifs. The multiple signs and symbols of consumer desire, culture and spirituality represent a world of possibilities for co-existence-in-chaos, informed by Lobregat's own bi-cultural experience (Filipino-Australian). Together, the symbols suggest the inherent presence of the spiritual in the everyday and become the focus of a contemplative memory. The symbols are reinvested with new meaning and hope, to become positive indicators of change for the new millennium.

Gallery 1:	Debra Porch & Harriet Parsons
Gallery 2:	Victoria Lobregat
Preview:	Wednesday 19 May 1999 , 6-8 pm
Dates:	19 May - 12 June 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