

MEDIA RELEASE June 2002

Bronia Iwanczak *Exit/Salida*

George Poonkhin Khut *Chinoiseries (Lost in Translation)*

Richard Butler-Bowdon *Nine Contemporary Australians*



Gallery 4a is delighted to present three exhibitions that explore culture, identity and ethnicity through sound, installation, photography and portraiture.

Exit/Salida is an exhibition by **Bronia Iwanczak** that incorporates photography and sculptural installation to explore identity in its various forms. Iwanczak is concerned with the formation and embodiment of identity, its organic source in land and place, and the relationships between individual and collective identity. Iwanczak created *Exit/Salida* as part of the Absolut-LA International 2001, at the invitation of the 18th St Arts Complex. *Exit/Salida* embodies themes that are central to Iwanczak's artistic inquiry- namely the negative effects of commercialisation and globalisation, and identity as an integral element of being. Iwanczak is a Sydney-based artist who has been exhibiting since 1988 both overseas and throughout Australia, including the Contemporary Art Centre in Adelaide and Ian Potter Gallery in Melbourne.

Chinoiseries (Lost in Translation) is a sound installation by **George Poonkhin Khut** that explores cultural authenticity, ethnicity and ambiguity between Anglo-Australian and Chinese-Malaysian cultures. Khut creates a sound installation where he takes recordings of spoken Mandarin, splices these sounds and rearranges them into a jumbled sonic collage. He humorously questions his own identity as a Chinese man who cannot speak Chinese. The subtle fabrics of sound that result are an integral part of Khut's art practice. George Poonkhin Khut has been working since 1987 in a variety of media including, sound, video, design, installation and performance. He has exhibited widely in Australia including the Adelaide Fringe Festival, the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and Art Space in Sydney.

Nine Contemporary Australians by **Richard Butler-Bowdon** is an exhibition of portraits that deals with cultural exchange and Asian identity in contemporary Australian urban life. He depicts individuals from a variety of cultural backgrounds such as Samoa, Japan and Vietnam who represent the complexity of Asian-Australian identities in Australia. Butler-Bowdon uses fluorescent coloured paints, working and reworking them so that the surface shows traces of layers beneath. The paintings are shown under black light which gives them a glowing and flickering effect. The works are not static representations of the sitter but presentations of a range of dynamic personalities. Richard Butler-Bowdon is a painter and installation artist who has been exhibiting since 1993 in a number of solo and group exhibitions including Nexus Multicultural Gallery-Lion Arts Centre Adelaide South Australia, Spencer Street Gallery in West Melbourne and BUS Gallery in Melbourne.

Gallery 1: Bronia Iwanczak *Exit/Salida*

Gallery 2: George Poonkhin Khut *Chinoiseries (Lost in Translation)*

Gallery 3: Richard Butler-Bowdon *Nine Contemporary Australians*

Preview: Thursday 6 June 6-8pm

Exhibition Dates: 7-29 June 2002

Venue: Gallery 4a

Asia-Australia Arts Centre

181-187 Hay St

Sydney NSW 2000

Admission: Free

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 11-6pm or by appointment

For more information contact Aaron Seeto 9212 0380

Image: Bronia Iwanczak, *Carnival Exchange: Eating Face* 2001, wool and wire