

# Media Release

17 January 2001

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## Chinese New Year – Year of the Snake Celebrating 150 years of Sydney's Chinatown at the Asia-Australia Arts Centre

The Asia-Australia Art Centre will present "*My Chinatown*", an exhibition showcasing Sydney Chinatown over the last 150 years. The exhibition comes to life in the midst of Chinese New Year celebrations in the year of Australia's Centenary of Federation. The event is part of the City of Sydney Chinese New Year Festival and will be launched Monday 22 January and will run through till 1 February.

*My Chinatown* explores Sydney's Chinatown and the local community from an historical and contemporary perspective. Photographs from the City of Sydney archives, dating from the 1890's, reflect Chinatown in the turn of the century. Other photographs from community members provide personal recollections of what it was like to be Chinese-Australian. Photographs of Quong Tart, one of Sydney's most famous Chinese-Australian, are also included. Sound recordings of interviews with Chinese Community leaders give an intimate history of growing up in Chinatown in the 1950's and 60's. While contemporary portraits of Chinese Australians by renowned photographer William Yang, brings Chinatown to today's relevance.

The curator of the exhibition, Melissa Chiu comments that, "My Chinatown is a timely exhibition. Through the amalgamation of rare photographs from private collections, the exhibition is designed to acknowledge and promote the contributions of Chinese people to the cultural heritage of Australia".

My Chinatown will be launched by King Fong OAM, one of Australia's best recognised Chinese Australians.

The exhibition is open to the public from Tuesday 23 January, gallery hours 11am-6pm Tuesday to Saturday. Admission is free.

Exhibition:	My Chinatown
Opening:	22 January, 6-8pm (Invitation only)
Dates:	23 January to February 3, 2001.
Venue:	The Asia-Australia Arts Centre 181-187 Hay Street (Haymarket), Sydney NSW 2000

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