

Media Release

11 November 2003

Exciting new projects at the Asia-Australia Arts Centre:

Koky Saly + Kijeong Song
Simon Cuthbert
Debra Porch
Scott Campbell



In November the Asia-Australia Arts Centre presents an exciting program of four exhibition projects by five artists from Tasmania, Brisbane and Sydney working across a range of mediums including photomedia, installation and sculpture.

Koky Saly + Kijeong Song

How Much Longer Will You Live Like This + Couples

A two-person exhibition that brings together two innovative bodies of work by young and emerging artists Koky Saly and Kijeong Song. Their strange photographs are inspired by the relationships that have evolved around them and raise awareness of the culturally complex societies in which they live.

Koky Saly's richly coloured photographs adopt lighting and compositional cues from Gothic film, engaging the viewer in a drama which is always slightly out of reach. This body of work began from the revelation of Saly's family history and his mother's offhand recollection of the death of her first daughter, a fact, up to that point Koky was unaware. "I have consciously populated my worlds with Australians of Asian-descent. Interestingly I was faced with questions and remarks which indicated to me that the viewer found it difficult to accept these people and these scenes as Australians and Australia," remarks Koky Saly. Alongside Saly's photographs is the work of Korean-born **Kijeong Song** who over the last three years has been photographing couples within their domestic environments. Her photographs in this exhibition illustrate strange sexual and cultural tensions within images of intimate relationships highlighting multiple and conflicting social roles, and the continuing stereotypes that inform the ways in which Asian-Australian relationships are read.

Koky Saly is an artist based in Melbourne, he has exhibited in artist run initiatives in Melbourne, as well as at the Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney. Kijeong Song is an artist based in Sydney.

Simon Cuthbert

Persistent Nature

Simon Cuthbert's exhibition of photo media works, **Persistent Nature** is based on Cuthbert's recent travels around the world, including Japan. Where he has been transfixed by the construction and representation of the natural world within the built environment and public spaces. Simon Cuthbert is an artist based in Tasmania

who has exhibited at the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum, Queensland, CAST Gallery, Tasmania, Gold Coast City Gallery as well as artist run spaces in Melbourne and Brisbane.

Debra Porch

Angels and Creeps

In the ground floor gallery, Brisbane-based artist Debra Porch presents an exhibition *Angels and Creeps*. Viewable 24 hours a day from the street, Debra Porch explores the convergence between memory and visibility through a sensuous installation of fabric constructions and video projections. Following her previous work, *Angels and Creeps* questions the link between the 'visible' (objects), to the 'invisible' space that connects an individual's memory and experience - "Art should make life more interesting than art"... (Quote: artist Annette Messenger quoting the artist Robert Filliou.)

Debra Porch is based in Queensland. She has exhibited widely including Silpakorn Arts Centre, Thailand; Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre; Goldcoast Regional Gallery as well as the Institute for Modern Art, Brisbane and Perth Institute for Contemporary Arts.

Scott Campbell

Misformers

Scott Campbell, a young artist based in Sydney, he presents a fascinating exploration of communication in his project *Misformers*, in the Asia-Australia Arts Centre project Space. Using collected Transformer toys from his youth, Campbell destroys and reassembles these machines into fantastic and unruly objects with uncertain uses as an exploration of communication and dysfunction.

The Asia-Australia Arts Centre is an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists Association Inc., a non-profit organisation supporting the work of Asian-Australian artists with well recognised support for emerging artists. Over the last seven years the Asian Australian Artists Association has been providing support for Asian-Australian artists through its initiatives Gallery 4A and the Asia-Australia Arts Centre. Throughout this period, one of the Gallery's strengths and currency has been in debates about the changing experiences of Australian culture. Gallery 4A and the Asia-Australia Arts Centre have created a unique structure for addressing contemporary cultural relations in Australia, and is an important forum for the discussion and development of these issues

For more information and press images contact Aaron Seeto, Curator on 02 9212 0380 or gallery@4a.com.au

Koky Saly + Kijeong Song

Simon Cuthbert

Debra Porch

Scott Campbell

Gallery 1 : Koky Saly + Kijeong Song

How Much Longer Will You Live This

Gallery 2: Simon Cuthbert

Persistent Nature

Gallery 3: Debra Porch

Angels and Creeps

Preview: Thursday 20 November, 6-8pm

Exhibition dates: 21 November - 13 December 2003

Venue: 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, Curator 9212 0380

Image: left: Koky Saly *How Much Longer Will You Live Like This*

Right: Kijeong Song, from *Rocky and Yoko*, type C photograph