

Media Release

For Release 11 March 2005

Faculty Gallery
Faculty of Art & Design

exhibition dates

Mar 17 to Apr 13 2005
opening Wed March 16

hours

9am-5pm Monday to Friday
1pm-5pm Saturday
Admission free

media contact

Kirsten Freeman
Manager, Marketing &
Communications
Phone +61 3 9903 1832
Fax +61 3 9903 2845
kirsten.freeman@artdes.monash.edu.au

Faculty Gallery
Faculty of Art & Design
Art & Design Building
Monash University
Caulfield Campus
900 Dandenong Road
Caulfield East Vic 3145
Australia
Tel +61 3 9903 2882



MONASH University
Art & Design



Academicici showcases artists from the first five years of the Australia Council Rome Residency Award in the Visual Arts and Crafts, 1999-2004.

This exhibition highlights the significance of interdisciplinary exchange for generating original discussion and research. Australian artists join an intellectual community of humanities researchers including artists, architects, philosophers, archaeologists and historians from the United Kingdom, Europe, and Australia, based at the British School at Rome as both scholars and staff.

Artists in the exhibition include: Euan Heng, Sebastian di Mauro, Alex Pittendrigh, Christine Morrow, Tom Alberts, Catherine Truman, David Keeling, Timothy Horn, Angela Cavalieri and Nell. Euan Heng is the Associate Professor Painting, Faculty of Art & Design, Monash University.

The Rome Studio Residency, supported by the Australia Council for the Arts Visual Arts/Crafts Board, began in 1999. It has subsequently allowed over twenty artists to spend up to three months at the British School at Rome (BSR) Accademia Britannica, a multi-disciplinary research centre located on the edge of the Villa Borghese in Parioli, Rome.

The **Exhibition Opening** event will be held on **Wednesday 16 March**, between 6 - 8pm.

Dr Sue Russell, Assistant Director (Humanities), British School at Rome, will officiate the event with an opening address at 6:30pm.

An **Artist Talk** will be held on **Wednesday 16 March** at 12:30pm by exhibition participant Nell. This presentation forms part of the Faculty of Art & Design Lunchtime Forum Program and will be held in the Lecture Theatre, Art & Design Building, Monash University, Caulfield Campus. The Forum Program is open to the public and is free.

The exhibition will tour to the British School Gallery, at the British School at Rome, 19 May until 5 June 2005.

Academicici

The Australia Council
Visual Arts|Crafts
Board Rome Studio
Residency, 1999-2004

March 17 to April 13 2005

Curated by Kit Wise

*Honours Course Co-ordinator and
Studio Co-ordinator of Drawing,
Faculty of Art & Design, Monash University*

"This survey show presents work by some of Australia's leading contemporary practitioners," says curator Kit Wise, "representing a cross-section of current cultural practice at the highest level, across film, installation, photography, painting, sculpture and jewellery, as well as other disciplines. Many of the artists have also been involved in recent seminal survey exhibitions, such as *2004: Australian Culture Now* held at the National Gallery of Victoria and the annual *NOW* exhibition, at Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA)".

For further information or images contact Kirsten Freeman, Manager, Marketing & Communications on (03) 9903 1832

Image caption: David Keeling, *Narawntapu-90°*, 2004, oil on linen, 182.5cm x 213cm. Image courtesy of Liverpool Street Gallery and Niagara Galleries.



Artist Biographies

Nell

Since 1994 Nell has exhibited in contemporary art spaces and leading private galleries, and been the recipient of several study grants including the Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship and the Australia Council Rome Studio Residency in 2003. Founding director of Rubyayre artist-run gallery, she has also been included in several major curated exhibitions such as *2004 - Australian Culture Now* at the National Gallery of Victoria.

In conjunction with the exhibition Nell will be presenting an artist forum addressing her current practice on Wednesday 16 March at 12:30pm. This presentation is part of the Faculty of Art & Design Lunchtime Forum Program and will be held in the Lecture Theatre, Art & Design Building, Monash University, Caulfield Campus. The Forum Program is open to the public and is free.

Both recently emerged and nationally recognized figures such as Nell are included in this survey show of “what the opportunity to study in Rome has really meant to contemporary Australian practitioners”, says exhibition curator Kit Wise.

Nell completed the Rome scholarship October – December 2003

David Keeling

David Keeling's work presents with haunting familiarity imagery of the Australian landscape. His residency at the British School at Rome allowed closer engagement with prior influences of Italian painters de Chirico and Carrà.

“It is inspiring to see this trajectory out of art history into the contemporary Australian muddle, where banality - the refusal of history - is at least one of the signatures. Keeling's paintings of the liminal rim of ‘wilderness’, the national park, show us seeking solace in the landscape without looking past the crisis of our own place in the land” writes Associate Professor Robyn Ferrell, Head of School of Philosophy, University of Tasmania (2005).

David Keeling is an example of the “trans-national, inter-disciplinary parameters of the exhibition” according to curator Kit Wise.

David completed the Rome scholarship October – December 2001

Alex Pittendrigh

Alex Pittendrigh presents ‘Pathological, ornamental extrusions, reasserting the acanthus of ancient Greco landscape that becomes the forest of architecture.’ The

curator of *Academici Kit Wise* says:

‘Somewhere between Rocco excess and sci-fil phantasmagoria, Pittendrigh's intensely hand-worked objects and watercolours present an unsettling but timely vision of the organic’.

Pittendrigh was a founding member of the influential artist-run space First Floor Artist and Writers Space, and was recently resident at Gertrude Street Studios. He has exhibited widely in Melbourne and beyond, including *A Molecular History of Everything* (*well not everything)* at ACCA, 2004-2005. Alex completed the Rome scholarship January – March 2002

Euan Heng

As an artist, Euan Heng's work has always drawn upon modernist narrativity. However, this is imbued by a desire to ‘retrieve the image’. In 1999 he was awarded the Australia Council Rome Residency at the British School at Rome. The stimulation of participating in this Italian residency followed by subsequent research trips in 2001, 2002 and 2003 has fuelled a continuing fascination for the ‘past’ where his attention is directed towards medieval mosaics, sculptures and frescoes. Referencing animal, bird and plant iconography he speculates on modes of representation as a carrier of significance both visual and contextual.

Euan Heng exhibits locally and internationally in solo, curated group exhibitions and travelling shows. His work has been extensively covered in visual arts press in both print and television.

Euan Heng is the Associate Professor in Painting, Department of Fine Arts, Faculty of Art & Design, Monash University.

Euan completed the Rome scholarship September - November 1999

Images from top:

Nell, *Not Without My Tail*, 2004, crocodile tail, enamel paint, epoxy joining compound, gold leaf, card and varnish, 103cm x 109.5cm x 31.5cm including plinth. Image courtesy of Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney.

David Keeling, *Narawntapu-90°*, 2004, oil on linen, 182.5cm x 213cm. Image courtesy of Liverpool Street Gallery and Niagara Galleries.

Alex Pittendrigh, *When the things we have come to love pass by*, 2003-2004, clay, 40cm x 20cm. Image courtesy of the artist.

Euan Heng, *Hocus - Pocus*, 2004, oil on linen, 128cm x 183cm. Image courtesy of Australian Galleries.

