

Glass art celebrates Australia in Asia

January 21, 2010

In association with the Australian Embassy in the Philippines, Asialink launches the Australian glass exhibition ***White Hot: contemporary Australian glass*** in Manila on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, as part of Australia Day celebrations across the region.

Glass artist, **Jessica Loughlin** (Adelaide), and curator, **Clare Belfrage** (Canberra), will travel to Manila for the official launch and also conduct a series of talks at Ayala Museum and University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts.

Asialink's Visual Arts Manager **Sarah Bond** says: "Launching ***White Hot*** on Australia Day in Manila is significant because it represents the beginning of a new decade of celebrating Australian Art across the Asian region."

Across the region Australia Day is celebrated in a myriad of ways through Australian Embassies, Asia-based Australian companies, and professional networks.

"The strength of our glass art is worthy of great celebration," says Bond. "This exhibition unites the works of eight internationally renowned Australian glass artists who are at the forefront of world glass practice. Each challenges the traditional ideas and methods of glassmaking.

"***White Hot*** highlights the strength of artistic skill both in the manipulation of this enigmatic, super-cooled substance and in the ideas presented — ideas that encourage us to reconsider and reassess the way we experience the environments we live in."

Featured artists, **Jessica Loughlin, Janice Vitkovsky, Brenden Scott French, Deirdre Feeney, Itzell Tazzyman, Wendy Fairclough, Tom Moore** and **Nadege Desgenetez**, demonstrate that whether it is expertly blown, meticulously engraved or cast, production work or conceptual art, glass is a major force within the language of contemporary Australian art.

From painterly, narrative approaches to explorations of form that span sculptural installation to new media practices, these artists ensure functionality takes a back seat to the infinite possibilities that glass has to transform our perception.

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