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Asialink visual arts

Four diverse and exciting Asialink visual arts exhibitions open this month in Tokyo, Manila, Melbourne and Jakarta, with two more exhibitions opening in Singapore and Tokyo in September. All are part of the Asialink Exhibition Touring Program, a series of exhibitions that aim to strengthen the cultural links between Australia and Asia.

Trace Elements: Spirit and Memory in Japanese and Australian Photomedia, opened at the prestigious Tokyo Opera City Gallery on 19 July and will come to Performance Space in Sydney in April 2009.

Trace Elements encompasses both the traditions and the innovations of photomedia practice, from black and white photography to interactive video installation, and includes works by Philip Brophy, Jane Burton, Alex Davies, Genevieve Grieves, Sophie Khan, Teiji Furuhashi, Seiichi Furuya, Chie Matsui, Lieko Shiga and Kazuna Taguchi.

One of Australia's leading contemporary indigenous artists, Brook Andrew, will have his first international solo exhibition when **Brook Andrew: Eye to Eye** tours south and south east Asia.

Brook Andrew: Eye to Eye covers the spectrum of Andrew's work from the past decade, and encompasses photography, printmaking, sculpture and neon installations. It has been described as '*a dazzling neon-lit barrage of colours, text, patterns, styles and ideas*' (West Australian).

The exhibition opens at the Yuchengco Museum, Manila on 24 July, and then at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore on 7 November, and has also recently shown in Sydney and Perth. The exhibition touring Asia is an edited version of the previous shows.

The World in Painting features work by twelve artists from Australia, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam, and is on at Heide Museum of Modern Art from 26 July to 9 November.

Brought together for the first time, the artists share a common belief in the possibilities of painting as a creative medium and its strength as a visual language. Spanning a diverse range of practices, they hail from both metropolitan and regional areas, crossing cultural backgrounds and generations.

Some of the works have already toured to Chulalongkorn, Bangkok, Manila and Hanoi.

The Australian artists involved include John Citizen, Amanda Davies, Diena Georgetti, Raafat Ishak, James Morrison, Nancy Naninurra Napanangka, Elizabeth Newman and Boxer Milner Tjampitjin. As a result of the tour to Asia, artists Luisito Cordero (Manila), Sakarin Krue-On (Bangkok), Le Quoc Viet (Hanoi) and Kamin Lertchaiprasert (Chiang Mai) have been selected to exhibit in *The world in painting* at Heide Museum of Modern Art.

In 2009 *The world in painting* will tour to some Australian regional centres.

Streetworks: Inside Outside Yokohama highlights the work of leading Australian video artists, Shaun Gladwell and Craig Walsh and tours Indonesia from July to September 2008. Opening at the National Gallery, Jakarta on 29 July, **Streetworks** will move on to the Yogya Gallery, Yogakarta on 20 August.

While Walsh connects the gallery space to the outside urban environment, Gladwell works in reverse. In different ways both artists have produced work that generates a tension between gallery and the public street. Their emphasis on other opposing values is also highlighted in the

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exhibition that moves laterally around concepts of performance and documentation, high art and low art, sub-cultural and pop-cultural, staged and real.

Diorama of the City: Between Site & Space is a collaborative project developed by Artspace, Sydney, and Tokyo Wonder Site, which explores the complex politics of site, mapping historical resonances, contemporary anxieties and the rhythms of urban life through a dynamic series of international encounters, exhibitions and public events.

Three Sydney-based artists will undertake a six-week residency at Tokyo Wonder Site, engaging with Japanese artists and developing collaborations in preparation for a major exhibition in Tokyo. Artspace will then reciprocate by hosting the Japanese and Australian artists as they develop an exhibition to be held in Sydney which builds on the earlier presentation in Japan.

Structured in such a way as to facilitate collaboration and dialogue between Australian and Japanese artists, **Diorama of the City** seeks to strengthen and expand artist networks in the Asia-Pacific region, while introducing audiences in both countries to new and innovative practices in installation, performance and media art.

The artists involved are Exonemo, Alex Gawronski, Paramodel, Gail Priest, Tim Silver and Hiraku Suzuki, and the curators are Reuben Keehan and Hisako Hara. **Diorama of the City** runs from 13 September to 13 October at the Tokyo Wonder Site, Shibuya. It opens at Artspace, Sydney on 12 March 2009.

Under my skin is an exhibition celebrating the artistic journeys of five established and distinguished contemporary Australian artists that have been involved with the Asialink Arts' residency program.

Emil Goh, David Griggs, Pat Hoffie, Megan Keating and Louise Paramor have been brought together for the first time, and represent a diverse range of practices, and different generations and varied cultural backgrounds. All transform what is significant to them into imaginary, creative, documentary or conceptual forms and content; into other personal realities through the residency experience.

Each artist reveals a depth of understanding of the worlds in which they were immersed, worlds unknowable to the passing tourist or the casual observer. Artists have their work critiqued and tested in new cultural contexts and gain access to world-views that, once foreign and impenetrable, slowly unravel to offer new, insightful and enriching perspectives on their work.

Under my skin has recently shown in Manila, and will open at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore on 24 September.

The Asialink Centre promotes public understanding of the countries of Asia and creates links with Asian counterparts. The Visual Arts Program offers opportunities for Australian visual artists and craftspeople to spend time working in Asian countries, and initiates and facilitates exhibitions of contemporary art and craft between Australian and Asian countries.

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