

Design

CONTEMPORARY ART AT ITS BEST!

A SIGNIFICANT event for visual artists and enthusiasts in the Northern Territory (NT) is the forthcoming exhibition of the Contemporary Territory 2004: Four Artists The Territory Years, which opened last 21 February 2004 at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT).

The MAGNT presented the first Contemporary Territory exhibit ten years ago. Contemporary Territory 2004 Four Artists The Territory Years – curated by Daena Murray, MAGNT Curator of Visual Art and Craft – is the fifth in this series of exhibitions staged triennially to showcase recent work by Northern Territory artists.

Vibrant, colourful, and challenging, Contemporary Territory 2004 Four Artists The Territory Years, a visually striking exhibition, presents a selection of works conceived and produced in the NT by four leading Australian artists, Dadang Christanto and Judy Watson forged international reputations during their years in Darwin. While Annie Franklin and Pip McManus, have longstanding histories within the Northern Territory, during which substantial developments in their practice took place.

“Newcomers to Contemporary Territory will thoroughly enjoy the varied and powerful creations by the four artists, as much as those who look forward to each new staging.” Daena enthused.

The Artists

Dadang Christanto has been an artist for 28 years. During his early years in Indonesia, beginning with student activism and later during the Suharto's New Order regime, he earned a reputation for art that steadfastly addressed social and political issues. As well as exhibiting existing works, which focus on the upheavals of his native country Indonesia, Dadang has built an impressive installation within the exhibition space called *Di ujung kelopak daunnya tetap ada air mata* (On the edge of the petal there are still tears) which continues his enduring theme of loss and death through oppression.

Judy Watson is an Indigenous artist from Waanyi land near the Queensland/Northern Territory border. Her multi-layered canvases displayed in the exhibition were painted during her years in the Territory. Judy has joined numerous group shows; national and international solo exhibitions; and has been involved in significant public art projects for the Melbourne Museum, Sydney Airport, and the Victorian County Court. Judy's works map her personal responses to the tropical landscape.

Pip McManus has been an artist in Alice Springs since 1981. Her work has extended to architectural and public art commissions at sites including the Cultural Centre at Uluru; the Desert Park in Alice Springs; the George Brown Botanic Gardens; and Darwin City Mall. Pip has also exhibited in solo and group exhibitions nationally. Her work follows the themes of dislocation, memory and the sacred in a variety of ceramic pieces.

In search of inspirational places, Annie Franklin came to NT for the first time in 1989. During the nine months she spent in Darwin, she visited Bathurst Island and the Tiwi Design business. In 1990, she was offered a three-month contract with Munupi Arts on Melville Island and ended up staying nearly four years. Annie's work is vibrant and colourful with strong decorative qualities. She presents paintings and prints produced over 10 years of transforming interaction with nature and culture of NT on Melville Island and rural Darwin.

Contemporary Territory 2004 - Four Artists The Territory Years is on display from 21 February until 3 May 2004. For enquiries, call Angela Keith 89998163.

The Students' Union is seeking applicants for Delirra Co-Editor. We are looking for a dynamic and creative person who can make the student newspaper a blast this 2004! Applicants should have a passion in writing and publishing.

For enquiries, please call 8946 7747 and look for Louwih.