

Griffith Artworks Newsletter

Issue 2, Semester 2 2010

GUAC PHILANTHROPY NEWS

Griffith Artworks has facilitated some significant gifts in recent months, including a major work on paper gifted by Juan Davila titled *'Portrait of Bungaree'* from 1991. It's a large work on several sheets combining various techniques, including printed silkscreen elements and freehand watercolour, pen and ink drawing. Davila, who moved from Chile to Melbourne in 1974, is one of Australia's great international contemporary artists. He's regularly included in museum and gallery projects throughout Europe and the USA and was one of only six artists recognised for lifetime achievement at the recent Documenta 12 project in Kassel (Germany) with a stunning group of paintings. *Portrait of Bungaree* is a complex web of layered imagery which cites art historical and political referents with great resonance in South America and Australia, crossing realms of indigenous, colonial and post-colonial identity constructs, with observations on nationalism, human rights and autobiographical accounts. The work is one from a suite of six using the same silkscreen 'ground', and yet each is in a unique state given his painterly interventions. Other examples of *Portrait of Bungaree* are held in the permanent collections of The National Gallery of Australia and National Gallery of Victoria. The gift was facilitated by Griffith Artworks, the artist and Kalli Rolfe Contemporary Art following the survey exhibition and publication of *'DAVILA: GRAPHIC!'* last year at Griffith University Art Gallery, QCA.



Image: Juan Davila
'Portrait of Bungaree'
 1991 silkscreen,
 watercolour, pen and
 ink on paper, 241 x
 161cm. Image and
 copyright courtesy
 the artist and Kalli
 Rolfe Contemporary
 Art, Melbourne.
 Griffith University Art
 Collection.

GALLERY NEWS

Griffith University Art Gallery has recently staged its biggest community partnership project in years, involving over 20 sponsors and \$15 000 in prize money. It's the first time in 25 years 'the Churchie' National Emerging Art Exhibition and Award has been staged outside the Anglican Church Grammar School, and media coverage, positive feedback from industry, visitation levels, participation in public programs and professional development opportunities for emerging artists have been unprecedented. Brisbane-based Kelly Hussey-Smith was the \$10 000 major prize winner for her video work titled *'Caged'*, which has also been acquired for GUAC, with \$500 awards going to Stephen Russell, Karen Black and Christopher Howlett. Pre-Selection judges Madeleine Kelly (a QCA graduate who won the Churchie in 2004) and Tony Albert selected 45 finalists from 675 entries and national art critic, broadcaster and blogger Andrew Frost declared his winners at a huge event at QCA for 450 guests on Friday 11th of June. Churchie and Griffith Artworks are keen to strengthen the partnership into 2011, and build on the momentum for one of Australia's richest emerging artist prizes.



L-R : Headmaster Jonathan Hensman with 'Churchie Art Award' recipients Stephen Russell, Chris Howlett, Karen Black, Kelly Hussey-Smith and Andrew Frost at QCA.

2010 ON-CAMPUS SITE REVIEW

The Griffith Artworks **On-Campus Exhibition Program (OCEP)** Review is in full swing. GAW staff have been visiting areas across all campuses to identify sites that best satisfy the OCEP and GUAC policies. These assessments are based on collection visibility, best asset management standards and resourcing. Priority will be given to sites that are highly visible to students and staff, as well as those that best satisfy the environmental requirements for the assets. The GAW website has further details of relevant GUAC policies. For any

queries please contact **Camille Serisier, Acting Art Collections Manager** on extension 55505.

Public Programs

The Churchie National Emerging Art Exhibition is a project that brings together emerging artists from around Australia, sampling the diverse practices that make up the next generation of contemporary artists. The project also provides an ideal opportunity to engage with a generation of potential future artists, through initiatives such as the School Holiday Workshops run by Griffith Artworks.

During the recent school holidays, High School students explored unconventional approaches to drawing with Churchie finalist and QCA graduate Carly Scoufos, and were introduced to the world of VJing (or Video DJing, a combination of Video Art, DJing, performance and 'playing computer games on stage') through a workshop presented in conjunction with the Edge at the State Library of Qld. Meanwhile, younger students had fun creating their own superheroes with another Churchie finalist, Jonathan McBurnie. Participants displayed great creativity and enthusiasm, creating characters such as Guinea Pig Girl, G-Man and Super Alex. Since the workshop, parents have let us know that these budding artists have continued to work on their creations, inventing stories using templates from the workshop.

'The Churchie' has proved popular with visiting school groups as well, with well over 400 students coming through the exhibition during its 7 week run. The Gallery also hosted 90 members of the Queensland Art Teachers' Association as part of their annual In-service Day, providing a valuable chance for Art Teachers to gain insight into our exhibitions and facilities. QCA Graduates including Churchie finalists Carly Kotynski and Jonathan McBurnie, and former GAS (Graduate Art Show) finalists Sonya Peters and David Nixon also worked with us to deliver QATA programs. Response to the exhibition and associated programs has been overwhelmingly positive, and visits have been rounded out by student groups from Flying Arts and the Brisbane Institute of Art, as well as QCA's own first year cohort.

GUAC

Tracey Moffatt's video *Other* (2009) is a recent significant addition to the **Griffith University Art Collection**. Moffatt's practice encompasses photography and film, with which she creates

complex, multi-layered narratives exploring issues such as identity, race, gender and sexuality.

Other was produced in collaboration with Gary Hillberg and is one of a group of works in which the artists have used cut-and paste editing techniques to form a video collage of classic cinematic moments. Each addresses a theme, with previous titles including *Doomed, Mother, Love, Lip and Artist*. As its title suggests, *Other* takes as its subject cinematic depictions of interracial encounters – from the poignant, to the melodramatic. Although constructed from film 'quotations' which Moffatt "inverts, pastiches, contaminates, and transforms", the seven minutes of accumulated scenes combine to create a narrative whole. Clips from art-house films to Hollywood epics have been carefully selected and juxtaposed to show how perceptions of the 'other' are often pervaded with violence and eroticism, luring the viewer in through a sense of imminent event. The result is a highly entertaining yet deeply reflective meditation on the legacies of colonialism and its associated stereotypes. The "climax" of the film, which contrasts an erupting volcano with scenes of sexual encounters, is humorously emphasized by the accompanying soundtrack building to a crescendo.

Griffith Artworks has been following Moffatt's career since the 1980s and the collection includes 15 works by this eminent artist. Moffatt was born in Brisbane in 1960 and studied visual communications at the Queensland College of Art, making this purchase particularly appropriate. Her previous films include *Night Cries* (1990) and *Bedevil* (1993), both of which were selected for official competition at the Cannes Film Festival. Since her first solo exhibition in 1989, Moffatt has gone from strength to strength, with group and solo exhibitions in Australia, Asia, the United States and Europe. Her work was included in the 1997 Venice Biennale, and solo exhibitions of her work were shown at the cutting-edge Dia Center for the Arts in New York in 1997, at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney in 2003, the Hasselblad Museum in Sweden in 2004, and Spazio Oberdan, Milan in 2006.

GRIFFITH ARTWORKS AND GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY, QCA

Art Collections Manager (Acting), Camille Serisier
Curatorial & Collections Assistant, Kat Sawyer
Curatorial Officer, Abigail Fitzgibbons
Exhibition & Public Programs Officer Chris Handran
Administration Officer, Karen La Rocca (FTE)
Director, Simon Wright (FTE)