

Revealing the Human
ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA
MEDIA RELEASE – *for immediate release*
11 August 2009



Anny Servais *Yellow Eyes, Red Teeth, Black and Blue Lines*, 2009 acrylic and oil pastel on photocopy on paper (Créahm; Liège, Belgium)

EXHIBITION

Selected from Arts Project Australia and other important studios around the world, *Revealing the Human* powerfully and directly communicates the hopes, desires and experience of a range of artists, most of who will be seen for the first time in Australia.

Exhibition Opening

Wednesday 2 September 2009 from 6-8pm

Exhibition to be opened by exhibition curator

Professor Colin Rhodes,
Dean of Sydney College of the Arts,
University of Sydney

Exhibition Dates

Thursday 3 September to Saturday 17 October 2009

Location

Arts Project Australia 24 High Street Northcote VIC 3070

Contact

P: 03 9482 4484 **E:** info@artsproject.org.au

W: www.artsproject.org.au

SPECIAL EVENT

Symposium Revealing the Human

By invitation only

Friday 4 September from 10am–4pm

For more information please contact Arts Project Australia

FEATURING

Curator's Talk Revealing the Human

An introduction to the exhibition concept and contexts by
Professor Colin Rhodes

Panel Great Art from Unexpected Places

Chair Colin Rhodes

Panellists Tom di Maria, Director, Creative Growth USA;
Alex Baker, Senior Curator Contemporary Art, NGV; Dr
Cheryl Daye, Founding Director, Arts Project Australia; Rob
McHaffie, Contemporary Artist; and James McDonald,
Artsworker, Arts Project Australia.

Revealing the Human

ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE – *for immediate release*

11 August 2009

Exhibition Revealing the Human

Arts Project Australia presents an international exhibition of work by artists who reference the human figure, either as direct representation or in less literal ways. Selected from Arts Project Australia and other important studios around the world, *Revealing the Human* powerfully and directly communicates the hopes, desires and experience of a range of artists, most of who will be seen for the first time in Australia.

Artwork Studios & Artists

Heidi Brinch Hansen, Kenneth Rasmussen, Leon Sørensen, **Bifrost, Denmark**; Dwight Mackintosh, Donald Mitchell, Aurie Ramirez, **Creative Growth, USA**; José Nunez, **Creativity Explored, USA**; Anny Servais, Samuel Cariaux, **Créahm, Belgium**; Hans Hartman, Pauulus de Groot, **Herenplaats, Holland**; Mattias Johansson, **Inuti, Sweden**; Kimmo Tolvanen, Elina Niemelä, Tuula Rantanen, **Kettuki, Finland**; Sinéad Fahey, Lorna Corrigan, Thomas Barron, **KCAT, Ireland**; Jouni Soinis, Tiina-Elina Nurminen, **Turku, Finland**; and Leo Cussen, Jodie Noble, Adrian Lazzaro, **Arts Project Australia, Melbourne**.

Curator

Professor Colin Rhodes, Dean of Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney



Jodie Noble *Sacha in a black dress with long hair* 2008 pastel on paper (Arts Project Australia, Melbourne)

Exhibition Opening

Wednesday 2
September 2009
from 6-8pm

Exhibition to be opened by

Professor Colin Rhodes,
Dean of Sydney College
of the Arts,
University of Sydney

Exhibition Dates

Thursday 3 September
to Saturday 17 October
2009

Location

Arts Project Australia
24 High Street Northcote
VIC 3070

Gallery Hours

Monday – Friday
9am-5pm,

Saturday 10am-1pm

Images : 300dpi print quality images from *Revealing the Human* are available on request.

Media Contact : For more information please contact Sim Luttin (Gallery Manager) or Sue Roff (Executive Director)
by Ph: 9482 4484 E: info@artsproject.org.au or visit our website www.artsproject.org.au

Revealing the Human

ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE – *for immediate release*

11 August 2009

Symposium Revealing the Human

In conjunction with this noteworthy exhibition, Arts Project Australia presents a special one-day, *invitation-only* symposium based on the exhibition concept and contexts. The program provides unique insights into artwork by people with intellectual disability from overseas and Arts Project Australia who are exploring the human figure, while also discussing the broader role and function of international and Australian specialist studios.

Curator's Talk Concept & Contexts

A formal presentation by Professor Colin Rhodes, Dean of Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney

Presentations Artworkers & Artists

Informal presentations by artists and artworkers Christina Hayes, Bernadette Trench-Thiedeman and Arts Project Australia artists.

Panel Great Art from Unexpected Places

CHAIR Colin Rhodes

PANELISTS Tom di Maria, Director, Creativity Explored, USA; Dr Cheryl Daye, Founding Director, Arts Project Australia; Alex Baker, Senior Curator Contemporary Art, National Gallery of Victoria; Rob McHaffie, Artist, Melbourne; and James McDonald, Artworker, Arts Project Australia.



Elina Niemelä *HIM* 2007 acrylic on board (Kettuki, Finland)

SESSION 1

The role of the specialist studio worldwide.

Session one focuses on the role and functions of specialist studios in facilitating artistic production and supporting high level artistic practice among members of groups with intellectual disabilities. In the context of the selection of international studios represented in the exhibition, this session encourages discussion of values, practices and facilities. Issues that relate to audience outreach, commerciality and the 'culture' of the studio will be central to the conversation.

Presenters: Tom di Maria, Director, Creativity Explored, USA
Dr Cheryl Daye, Founding Director, Arts Project Australia

SESSION 2

What happens when we talk about context and quality?

Session two focuses on the impact of art coming out of specialist studios in general, and specifically on the works in the exhibition. Can the work be addressed using the same criteria as any other art? Does it bear up against comparisons with the contemporary mainstream? Do audiences bring baggage with them in looking at and evaluating this art arising from unexpected places? What has kept it out of the mainstream museum? What are the highlights of this show?

Presenters: Rob McHaffie, Artist, Melbourne
Alex Baker, Senior Curator Contemporary Art, NGV
James McDonald, Artworker, Arts Project Australia

Images : 300dpi print quality images from *Revealing the Human* are available on request.

Media Contact : For more information please contact Sim Luttin (Gallery Manager) or Sue Roff (Executive Director) by Ph: 9482 4484 E: info@artsproject.org.au or visit our website www.artsproject.org.au

Revealing the Human ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE – *for immediate release*



PROFESSOR COLIN RHODES

DEAN, SYDNEY COLLEGE OF THE ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Colin Rhodes has written and lectured widely on modern art, and has a particular interest in Primitivism and Outsider Art. His books include, *Outsider Art: spontaneous alternatives* (2000), *Primitivism and Modern Art* (1994), both published by Thames and Hudson. A graduate of University of London Goldsmiths' College and the University of Essex, he was Director of the School of Art & Design at Loughborough University, UK before taking up his current position as Dean of Sydney College of the Arts at the University of Sydney. He has curated a number of exhibitions of self-taught and outsider art, especially in his role as Director of the recently established Self-Taught and Outsider Art Research Collection.



TOM DI MARIA

DIRECTOR, CREATIVE GROWTH

Prior to his position as Director of Creative Growth Art Center, Tom di Maria served as Assistant Director of the Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive, at UC Berkeley. Tom has worked as the Executive Director of FRAMELINE, and as Director of Development and Marketing at the San Francisco Film Society. He holds a B.F.A. from Rochester Institute of Technology and a M.F.A. from Maryland Institute, College of Art, in film and photography. Tom is also an award-winning filmmaker, with short film awards from Sundance, Black Maria, Sinking Creek, National Educational Media, and New York Experimental film festivals.



ALEX BAKER

SENIOR CURATOR CONTEMPORARY ART, NGV

Formerly Curator of Contemporary Art at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and Associate Curator at the Institute of Contemporary Art (both in Philadelphia), Alex Baker has organized exhibitions with artists including; Robert Ryman, Ellen Harvey, Marcel Dzama, Barry McGee, and Laylah Ali among many. *Indelible Market: Barry McGee, Stephen Powers, and Todd James*, developed at the Institute of Contemporary Art in 2000, toured to the Venice Biennale in 2001. He recently co-curated with Toby Kamps *Space Is the Place*, an exhibition about space travel and contemporary art, which toured through Independent Curators International. He has a Ph.D. in visual anthropology from Temple University, Philadelphia.



DR CHERYL DAYE

FOUNDING DIRECTOR, ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA

Cheryl Daye is Projects and Development Manager at Arts Project Australia and a specialist teacher of people with an intellectual disability. She has more than 25 years' experience in developing fine arts practice as a means of personal fulfilment and social engagement for people with an intellectual disability. As Founding Director of Arts Project Australia, she established the studio-workshop model and contributed to the development of its philosophy and direction. Her PhD examines practical and theoretical aspects of art programs for people with an intellectual disability including the acceptance of their work as art.



JAMES McDONALD

ARTSWORKER & ARTIST

James McDonald began his association with Arts Project Australia in 2007 and currently works within both the studio and gallery, after completing a Bachelor of Fine Art at RMIT in 2006. These dual roles allow James to develop a comprehensive understanding of the ethos and workings of Arts Project Australia, as well as the artistic practices, creative and personal nuances of the many gifted artists who work within the studio. James McDonald was born in Yorkshire in 1974, migrated to Western Australia in 1983 and currently resides and maintains his personal painting practice in Melbourne.



ROB MCHAFFIE

ARTIST

Former studio artist at Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces in Melbourne, contemporary painter and artist Rob McHaffie is widely exhibited throughout Australia. His achievements include; *Visage*, curated by Felix Ratcliff, First Draft Gallery, Sydney and *Small triumph*, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney. In 2007, McHaffie was awarded Residency, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris and the Linden Postcard Award in 2003. Rather than paint from life, McHaffie chooses what could be described as the poor man's life model, sculpting characters from modeling compound and adding scraps of fabric, discarded clothes and bric-a-brac to create imagined portraits and tableaus. McHaffie recently commented about his work that "You'll find bits and pieces of everyone, everything and nothing in my work. I try to keep it open and feed it like a fire."

Images : 300dpi print quality images from *Revealing the Human* are available on request.

Media Contact : For more information please contact Sim Luttin (Gallery Manager) or Sue Roff (Executive Director) by Ph: 9482 4484 E: info@artsproject.org.au or visit our website www.artsproject.org.au