

SILK + SAND: Chinese and Australian Prints

6 March - 12 April 2008 | Opens 6 March, 5:30 - 7:30pm



Jane Fontane, *Fortress Max*, screenprint, 2008.

As a collection of contemporary prints from China and Australia, **SILK + SAND** showcases both the expected differences and the surprising similarities between 29 artists from the East and West.

As you might expect, the Chinese contingent present some stunning prints in the social realist tradition such as **Wu Hong's** sensitive red and black portraits of peasants, while local larrikin legend **Reg Mombassa** delivers a distinctive brand of irreverent Aussie humour.

But **SILK + SAND** also successfully blurs cultural boundaries. For example, both **Jane Fontane** and **Li Fan** tap into the bright, bold, consumerist aesthetic of Pop art. In Fontane's large screenprints children morph into giant toy Transformers. Fan's striking pink and red lithograph of a bawling baby's head has the instant iconic impact of a Warhol portrait.

The 15 Australian artists in **SILK + SAND** all have a close association with the College of Fine Arts UNSW (COFA) as either staff, students or participants in COFA's unique custom printing research group, Cicada Press, and include many well known painters such as **Elisabeth Cummings, Euan Macleod** and indigenous artist **Michael Nelson Jagamara**. The 14 Chinese artists are all staff members at the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing.

Curated by **Michael Kempson** and **Tang Cheng Hua**.

Free exhibition talk: 13 March at 12.30pm

SILK + SAND artists: Tess Barnard, Peter Burgess, Elisabeth Cummings, Jane Fontane, Ian Grant, Rew Hanks, Michael Kempson, Graham Kuo, Euan Macleod, Helen Mueller, Tilau Nangala, Michael Nelson Jagamara, Chris O'Doherty (aka Reg Mombassa), Peter Sharp, Gary Shinfield, Su Xin Ping, Li Xiao Lin, Zhang Gui Lin, Zhang Ye, You Jing Dong, Zhou Ji Rong, Liu Li Ping, Wang Hua Xiang, Li Fan, Kang Jian Fei, Zhu Yan Chun, Tang Cheng Hua, Wu Jiang, Wu Hong.

For more information, interviews or images please contact

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Euan Macleod, *MK 2*, etching, 2008.



Chris O'Doherty (aka Reg Mombassa), *Skirting the Rim of Hell*, lithograph, 2003..

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