MEDIA RELEASE

IVAN DOUGHERTY GALLERY

The Resilient Landscape

22 Nov -22 Dec 2007 | Opens 23 Nov: 5:30 - 7:30pm



Phillip George, On Border Patrol (Bondi Beach), 2005, C type print, 110 x 120 cms.

The Resilient Landscape is sponsored by the Centre for Contemporary Art and Politics, COFA UNSW.



The Resilient Landscape is a potent mix of art and politics. With both the Federal election and the second anniversary of the Cronulla riots just around the corner, it's the perfect time to consider Australia's place in the world as well as our problems at home.

The Resilient Landscape presents found objects, video and photo media artworks by Lebanese and Australian artists which explore violent conflict and simmering tensions in both the Middle East and on Sydney's suburban beaches.

Curators Phillip George, David McNeill and Khaled Sabsabi use confrontational artworks to draw parallels between Lebanon and Australia. As George, who is also exhibiting in *The Resilient Landscape*, points out, "Lebanon is like a little red hot chilli pepper. It's a tiny place; a concentrated, explosive example of what's happening in global geo-politics... It could be a model for anywhere else. You could actually say Lebanon is all of us in a lot of ways."

According to McNeill, "The true fears and doubts of any nation state become particularly and painfully visible at its borders rather than in some notional centre, and if this is true at the border of Lebanon and Israel (occupied Palestine), it is also true on the sand and surf of our eastern seaboard."

On November 23, *The Resilient Landscape* will be accompanied by a FREE workshop of relevant discussions and a film programme of new works by politically active Lebanese film-makers. FREE workshop: 11:00-2:00pm, film screenings: 2:30-5:30.

Lecture Theatre EGO2, College of Fine Arts UNSW

Corner of Oxford Street and Greens Road, Paddington.

For more information , interviews or images please contact Tracey Clement T +61 2 9385 0675 E publicrelations@cofa.upsw.edu.

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IVAN DOUGHERTY GALLERY | COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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