



Time travel: reimagining the past

Tweed River Art Gallery

7 May - 20 June 2010



Time travel: reimagining the past

World history and our relatively short Anglo-Australian past offers a wealth of material for artists to explore - but why do artists so often look to another era for inspiration? Is it an examination or interrogation of personal or cultural identity? Is it reverie for the vast richness offered by the history of aesthetics? Are they asking us to remember, and by default, not to forget? Does a particular story or event inspire them because it is still relevant to the present? Well known figures or events, identifiable styles of dress or presentation, iconic artworks or narratives, colonialism and immigration, and the vulnerable world of natural history offer a rich mine of material to draw from.

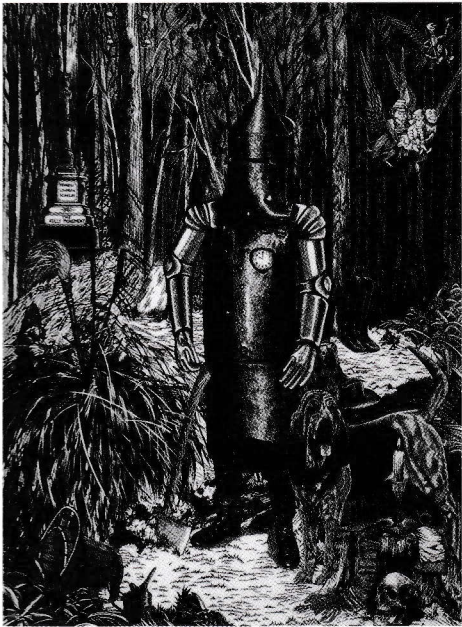
Over time the full context or detailed reality of an event, place or person fades. When the central and peripheral facts are distilled by time, we are often left with an imagined or popular truth - an abstract that could be taken as definitive. Is it possible that a reference to the past acts as shorthand, offering a swift route to serve an artist's contemporary message?

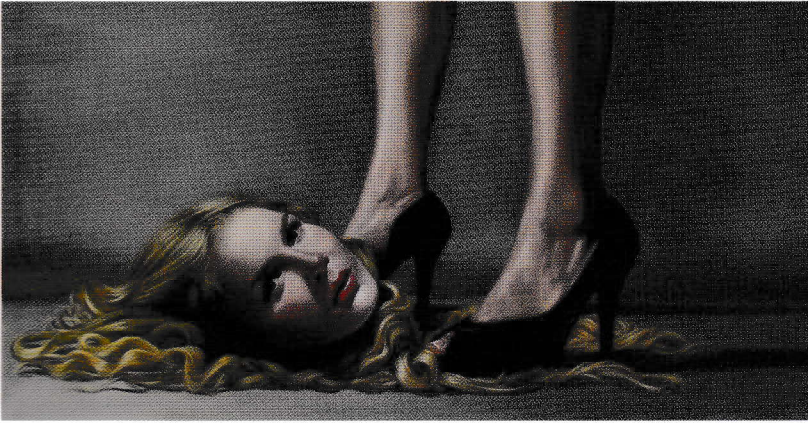
In an effort to answer some of these questions *Time travel: reimagining the past* brings together work by some of Australia's most intriguing contemporary artists. Many of the selected works may at first appear familiar, recognisable to us from history lessons or even glossy coffee table books. However, in many instances what may appear to be an innocent or humorous representation of a by-gone era, is actually a highly charged work imbued with political comment and attitude.

Many artists have cleverly recontextualised contemporary themes in historical settings, creating works of dramatic visual tension. Often making strong references to our perceived connections to history, they have challenged conventional representations of our sense of place, nationhood and cultural identity.

These works ask the viewer to question the familiar and discover alternative perspectives. Travelling through time armed with impressive skills, these artists rewrite and reimagine their personal and our shared histories.

Susi Muddiman and Gail McDermott, April 2010







Exhibiting Artists

Julie Bartholomew
Gordon Bennett
Penny Byrne
Samantha Everton
Anne Ferran
Rew Hanks
Neil Jenkins
Jonathan Jones
Lindy Lee
Keith Looby
Fiona Lowry
Alasdair Macintyre
Dean Manning
Danie Mellor
VR Morrison
Kate O'Brien
Ben Quilty
Mel Robson
Valerie Sparks
Robyn Stacey
Arlene TextaQueen
Christine Willcocks
Anne Zahalka



Communities
arts nsw

Tweed River Art Gallery is assisted by the NSW Government through Arts NSW.

TWEED RIVER ART GALLERY

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W: www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/artgallery
Open: 10am-5pm (DST)
Wed - Sun Free admission

Cover image:

Anne Zahalka

The Gentleman 1994

ilfachrome photograph

96.0 x 73.0cm

Courtesy of the artist and Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery,
Sydney and ARC ONE Gallery, Melbourne

Inside fold:

Danie Mellor

New World, New Order 2009

mixed media on paper

139.5 x 100.0cm

Private Collection

Inside, clockwise from top left:

Penny Byrne

Gitmo Bay Souvenirs. Closing Down Sale. All stock must go! 2009

vintage porcelain figurines, metal chain,

re-touching medium, powder pigments

and epoxy resin

22.0 x 57.0 x 10.0cm

Private Collection

Julie Bartholomew

Qing Prado 2008

porcelain

life-size

Courtesy of the artist

Kate O'Brien

Queenie Beth 2007

digital print

61.0 x 76.0cm

Courtesy of the artist

VR Morrison

French Manicure 2007

oil on Belgian linen

79.0 x 168.0cm

Private Collection

Arlene TextaQueen

"The True History of the Kelly Gang" (Salote),

Warby Ranges 2008

felt-tip pens on 100% cotton Stonehenge paper

127.0 x 97.0cm

Private Collection

Image courtesy of the artist and Gallerysmith,
Melbourne

Rew Hanks

If Only I Had A Heart 2002

hand coloured linocut

100.0 x 75.0cm

Courtesy of the artist