

MEDIA RELEASE

Two Different Worlds My Lee Thi & Ruth Watson

Gallery 4A is pleased to present two artists whose work addresses a sense of place—a sense of where we are in the world, as part of Australian Perspecta 1999.

Ruth Watson's work attempts to re-position Australia and New Zealand, where she was born, from their marginal place within the discourse of cartography. Featured in the exhibition, "Interrupting the World" (1999), for instance, is a light-coloured carpet stained with red wine, resembling the aftermath of a party. Although the spontaneity of the spills resemble the ambiguous blobs of a Rorschach image, they also represent a view of the globe.

Watson has exhibited her work in San Diego, New York and Germany where she was Artist in residence at the Berlin Kunst-Werke. Her work was featured in the Ninth Biennale of Sydney, and has also been shown at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney. Watson has resided in Australia since 1995.

My Lee Thi's work focuses on an exploration of racial politics through physical signifiers such as hair, eye and skin colour. Her controversial work from 1997 consisted of a series of small heads cast in the likeness of Pauline Hanson, each painted a different colour in red, black, yellow and white, representing different racial groups. This work was a critique of racial stereotypes embodied in the political agenda of the One Nation party.

Thi's installation for this exhibition is titled "Transformation" (1999), and involves members from the Sydney Vietnamese community, whose shoes or casts of their own feet are featured alongside Thi's in the show. Thi considers shoes to be an idiosyncratic symbol of journey and life experience and, by including shoes made by others, aims to present a cacophony of different stories of migration from Vietnam to Australia.

My Lee Thi was born in South Vietnam in 1964. She migrated to Darwin where she was awarded a Bachelor of Fine Arts. She has held exhibitions at 24 HR Art Gallery in Darwin and at Artspace in Sydney. In collaboration with Tim Johnson she has shown her work in Kassel, Germany and at the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Exhibition: Different Worlds
 Gallery 1: TRANSFORMATION: My Lee Thi
 Gallery 2: Ruth Watson
 Preview: Wednesday 15 September 1999, 6-8 pm
 Dates: 15 September - 9 October 1999
 Venue: Gallery 4A, Level 3, 53-55 Liverpool St, Sydney, NSW, 2000



AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTA 99

TRANSFORMATION BY MY LEE THI
 IS AN OFFICIAL CARNIVALE EVENT