

Media Release

Indians & Cowboys

Fiona Foley Jitish Kallat Michael Parekowhai Gigi Scaria Ronnie van Hout Shez Dawood



Jitish Kallat
Quarantine Day
Oil on canvas

In May, the Asia-Australia Arts Centre is pleased to present *Indians & Cowboys* a major group exhibition that brings together the work of six internationally recognised artists whose works share a slyly humorous approach to serious issues of cultural politics, nationality, and personal identities.

The myth of the Cowboy and the Indian has been a part of childhood play for the West. Set into conflict, the myth of the 'Indian' and the 'Cowboy' has formed images of stereotypical force. *Indians & Cowboys* seeks to echo the irreverent tone found within the exhibition title and the artwork in the exhibition - turning around the easy dualisms we encounter within our negotiations of difference.

The exhibition curated by Aaron Seeto and Ruth Watson include artists from Queensland (Fiona Foley), Mumbai (Jitish Kallat), Auckland (Michael Parekowhai), New Delhi (Gigi Scaria), Melbourne (Ronnie van Hout) and London (Shez Dawood) who are forging new connections across borders and employing humorous strategies that play with cultural stereotypes and labels. The exhibition undermines notions of cultural purity or simplicity, in order to reverse and reinterpret simply accepted ideas of ethnicity, geography and cultural identities, as reflected in the title of the exhibition.

The exhibition runs from the 2 -24 May. Coinciding with the exhibition at Gallery 4A will be *Elephant Walks* a youth arts project held at the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre and run by the artists Jitish Kallat and Reena Saini Kallat. The *Indians & Cowboys* project has been supported by the New South Wales Ministry for the Arts, the Migration Heritage Centre, the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre and the Asian Australian Artists Association Inc.

Exhibition: *Indians & Cowboys*
Artists: Fiona Foley , Jitish Kallat, Michael Parekowhai, Gigi Scaria, Ronnie van Hout, Shez Dawood
Curators: Aaron Seeto and Ruth Watson
For more information contact: Aaron Seeto, Curator, Gallery 4A, 9212 0380
Exhibition dates: 2-24 May 2003
Opening function: Thursday 1 May, 6pm
Venue: Gallery 4A
Asia-Australia Arts Centre
181-187 Hay Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Tel: 9212 0380
Fax: 9281 0873
Email: gallery@4a.com.au

Workshop: Youth Arts Workshop – *Elephant Walks* with Jitish Kallat and Reena Saini Kallat
Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre 23 April
10am-12 pm or 1-3pm Maximum of 40 children in each workshop
Bookings contact Carmel Aiello Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre on 9824 1121 fax 98214273 Email;
education@casulapowerhouse.com