

Stella Brennan
Erebus Memorial 2004
courtesy of the artist and
Starkwhite, Auckland



8 June – 27 August 2006
Tuesday – Saturday, 11am–6pm

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Gallery 4a at the Asia-Australia Arts Centre

Stella Brennan

born Auckland, Aotearoa
New Zealand, 1974
lives and works in Auckland

The 1979 Erebus disaster, in which an Air New Zealand sightseeing plane crashed into the Antarctic mountain, remains New Zealand's worst air crash. The accident, which killed 257 people, has all the pathos of Scott's doomed return from the South Pole, of systemic failure compounded by unforgiving weather ... There is something deeply affecting about the images from the interior of the plane. Passengers mill around looking out at the bright white landscape below. Funereal black hides their eyes, protecting their identities, marking them as figures in some drama. Unlike us, they are innocent of their fate ... the shadows we see did not expect that this might be their last journey. Plane hits mountain. In an instant all on board are dead.

text:
Artist statement

Chen Chieh-jen
Bade Area 2005 (still)
courtesy of the artist and
Main Trend Gallery, Taipei



Chen Chieh-jen

born Taoyuan, Taiwan, 1960
lives and works in Taipei, Taiwan

text:
Artist statement

Although I have named this film *Bade Area* (2005), there is no intention of making an actual, physical depiction or presentation of any one place called 'Bade'. In Taiwan, places or streets with names like 'Bade' (meaning 'eight virtues') were mostly named after the end of Japanese colonial rule ... These 'ruptures' between the names' literal meanings and the actuality of experience in these places are, in a sense, almost a kind of 'premonition' to their development process ... After the 1960s, to accommodate the development of Taiwan's labour industries, agricultural lands were redeveloped and turned into industrial areas. In the 1990s, when factories relocated to other Asian countries in search of cheaper labour, it cost these local labourers their jobs ... It appears that these landscapes are constantly in a state of being demolished and reconstructed, resembling a never-ending 'collage'.

Kai Syng Tan

born Singapore, 1975
lives and works in Singapore

also performing:
please check the Biennale
website for more information,
www.bos2006.com

text:
Artist statement

ISLANDHOPPING questions hegemonic structures of cultural, social, historical and political landscapes through discourse across the geopolitical premise of the 'island'.

I spent three years travelling through the Japanese archipelago, collecting the stories of fellow islanders and collaborating with Japanese artists. The sprawling opus now contains approximately 60 episodes (quasi-documentaries, video documentation of performances and installations, and an extensive archive).

Re-mixed specially for Australia (a Very Large Island) the work is a meta-textual re-presentation of *ISLANDHOPPING 2002–2005 Japan*. The Sydney 2006 version is a concept map, bathed in the pseudo-serious glory of a museum artefact. Its debut here will also mark *ISLANDHOPPING*'s finale, though expect no conveniently cathartic conclusions.