

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release - Tuesday 11 July 2006

SO MUCH MORE THAN DOTS AND CIRCLES AT THE ADELAIDE FESTIVAL CENTRE ARTSPACE

The Adelaide Festival Centre is proud to present the current exhibition of its very own **Indigenous Art Collection**, on display in the Festival Centre Artspace until 30 July.

Thanks to a generous donation of \$250,000 from the Adelaide City Council, the Festival Centre developed the collection over five years and it now comprises some 55 paintings, sculptures, works on paper and photographs by Australian Indigenous artists demonstrating diversity with a strong focus on contemporary issues.

The exhibition of 24 works includes work by emerging Indigenous artists, along with that of highly acclaimed names such as Ian Abdulla's *Drinking fishing and swimming (Down by the River)* and Kathleen Petyarr's *Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming (after hailstorm)*.

Indigenous artwork continues to develop international interest. The exhibition features one work from photographer Michael Riley's *Cloud* series - *Feather*, a simple yet spiritual image of a single feather floating in a translucent blue sky. The full series will be featured along with work by a selection of Australian Indigenous artists in the recently opened Musee du Quai Branly in Paris.

Several other works will next be on show in Japan as part of a Contemporary Australian Art exhibition to be shown from October - December. Julie Dowling's *The Paper Dress*; Dorothy Napangardi's *Karlangu (Digging Sticks)*; Freddy Timms' *Boab*; Clinton Nain's *7 Days of Blue (nos 3, 6,7)*; Abie Loy Kemarre's *Body Painting* and work by well-known artist Tracy Moffat will be loaned to the Bridgestone Museum in Tokyo.

Dr. Christine Nicholls will give a free lecture on the exhibition on 20 July, discussing the main exhibits' themes and histories. Dr. Nicholls possesses over a decade of national and international experience in lecturing on Indigenous Art and Australian Studies.

Children aged 6 - 16 and adults alike are encouraged to participate in the *Young Thinkers* education program as part of the exhibition experience. Selected works have labels asking simple questions encouraging the viewer to look closer to gain a deeper understanding of Australia's diverse cultures and stories.

Adelaide Festival Centre CEO and Artistic Director, Douglas Gautier, says, "This exhibition honours and celebrates South Australian and national Indigenous artists while raising the profile of Indigenous issues, identity, histories and Aboriginal links with the country. We take seriously our role in connecting diverse artists, audiences and ideas".

What: Adelaide Festival Centre Indigenous Art Collection
When: 5 - 30 July 2006
Dr. Christine Nicholls lecture 20 July @ 5:30pm
Where: Artspace, Adelaide Festival Centre
(Access via Festival Drive, or Dunstan Playhouse Foyer)
Disability access via Festival Bridge from North Terrace,
or AFC Amphitheatre ramp
Opening Hours: 12noon - 5pm Wednesday - Sunday

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