

Art and Photography

Art Report

By Sarah Firth

Back in early July two exhibitions were held for the mid year graduate season at the ANU School of Art Gallery. Both showcased works produced by candidates for the Master of Philosophy, Master of (Visual) Arts and the Graduated Diploma of Art. The first exhibition consisted of Tanmaya Bingham, Bridget Nicholson and Lucas Posada. The following show was work by Wan Hsin Lee, Noriko Nakano and Carole Hanson. From the first show, Tanmaya's installation of large, suspended oil paintings and disk shaped floor works was visually striking. The deeply spiritual paintings were arranged somewhat like an altar, with her placement of the panels guiding the viewer to walk through her works, moving along the stages of her personal journey of dealing with death. Bridget Nicholson's participatory earthy, felted sacks or voids, were a wonderful piece to watch at the opening. People, especially children, were pulling off their shoes to hop into the chunky pouches and wriggle around inside them, emerging with big smiles and tousled hair. From the second show I particularly enjoyed Carole Hanson's small ceramic vignettes. At first glance they are brightly coloured and cute, but they also call to attention to important and uncomfortable narratives from the world.

From the beginning of July until late August, the Dimensions Variable Contemporary Sculpture Festival will take hold of Canberra. The festival includes a series of indoor and outdoor sculpture exhibitions, educational activities and public events. The Biennial National Sculpture Prize and Exhibition at the NGA is a must see, with a \$50 000 prize for the winning artist. The exhibition is a wonderful opportunity to encounter recent works by thirty-nine of Australia's leading artists, as well as introducing several new and emerging artists working in the sculptural field today. The exhibition will be on from the 15th of July until the 9th of October, and is accompanied by numerous public talks at the NGA in the James O Fairfax lecture theatre. Lunchtime lectures will also be held as at the School of Art in Art Forum, in the SofA Lecture Theatre located on the first floor of the School above the main foyer. For more info

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on events either check out the NGA website: www.nga.gov.au or the School of Art website: www.anu.edu.au/ITA/CSA/info.html

Dimensions Variable 1.1, an exhibition centered on challenging traditional ideas of sculptural practice, will be showing at the Canberra Contemporary Art Space (Gorman House) from the 15th July until the 27th of August. Dimensions Variable 1.11, will be at Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre (right near CMAG) from the 15th of July until the 14th of August. This exhibition is of works by artists examining ways in which finely honed craft skills can spill into the genre of sculpture and conceptual art, away from utilitarian constraints. Dimensions Variable 1.111 will be showing at the School of Art Gallery from the 15th of July until the 14th of August, focused on ephemeral and site specific works. At the Foyer Gallery (next to the SofA Gallery) the exhibition Dimensions Three 3x3 will be showing. This is a three part exhibition showcasing the work of students from the Sculpture Department. Dimensions One will go from the 19th of 24th July, Dimensions Two from the 26th until the 31st of July and the final part, Dimensions Three, will show from 2nd – 7th August. I will be exhibiting my work in this third part of the exhibition along with the lovely Hanna Hoyne and Bridget Nicholson. If you would like to see what I do, other than comics, please do drop in and have a look. Additionally, if you like tasty nibbles and drinks then why not come along to the Dimensions Three opening on the 4th of August at 6pm. The temporary public art project Domain will also be happening in the general area between the NGA and Old Parliament House from the 7th until the 23rd of October. These are just a few examples of what will be showing as part of the Sculpture Festival. There will be more exhibitions of 3D work in numerous galleries around Canberra, at venues such as ANCA, the ANU Sculpture Park by the lake, the War Memorial, Beaver Galleries, at the Helen Maxwell Gallery, and there will be the traveling exhibition Car Cosy, stopping at various destinations around Canberra. For more info on any of these just jump online and checkout the Artlook website: www.artlook.com.au/whatson.asp