

# Flinders University Art Museum & City Gallery

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

**Thursday 14 June 2012**



**Flinders**  
UNIVERSITY

inspiring achievement

*roads cross: contemporary directions in Australian art* is a much anticipated Flinders University Art Museum initiative presented in partnership with Charles Darwin University Art Collection and Art Gallery.

Since the late 20th century, opportunities to engage with Australian Aboriginal art, its makers and their communities, have increasingly informed Western approaches to art-making.

*roads cross* explores how this development has left traces and echoes in recent Australian art through the work of sixteen non-Indigenous artists: **Alison Alder, Lauren Berkowitz, Robin Best, Angela Brennan, Gus Clutterbuck, Richard Dunn, Franck Gohier, Jonathan Kimberley, Ildiko Kovacs, Pamela Lofts, Una Rey, Tobias Richardson, Therese Ritchie, Nalda Searles, Quentin Sprague** and **Hossein Valamanesh**. Four Indigenous artists, **pura-lia meenamatta (Jim Everett), Nyukana Baker, Molly Nampitjin Miller** and **Yaritji Connelly** are represented as co-creators of art works, and those of a fifth – the late **Rover Thomas (Joolama)** – provide the exhibition with its title, and its visual and art historical points of departure.

Selected two and three-dimensional media include painting, collage, photography, printmaking, textile construction, ceramics, found-object installation and sculpture. Within this field, the impress of Aboriginal Australia – people, country and art – is both *perceived* and *felt*. The experience is optical and visceral, manifested through subject matter, materials and ideas: evident in the artists' research, processes and final execution.

Conceived as a visual stimulus to foster debate about cultural convergence and cross-cultural collaboration, *roads cross: contemporary directions in Australian art* traverses complex and politically charged terrain. Ultimately, it signals an important development in non-Indigenous creative practice in Australia, and thus in our understanding of Australian art in the 21st century.



**Ildiko Kovacs**, *Honey*, 2011, oil on plywood, 180 x 180 cm, Private Collection, Perth, image Stephen Oxenbury © courtesy the artist and Hugo Michell Gallery

**Tobias Richardson**, *Community*, c1998, synthetic polymer paint on recycled plexiglass louvres, 52.3 x 53.5 cm (irreg), Gift of the artist, Flinders University Art Museum Collection 4649, image Flinders University © courtesy the artist

The exhibition has been jointly curated by **Vivonne Thwaites**, **Fiona Salmon** (Director, Flinders University Art Museum & City Gallery) and **Anita Angel** (Curator, Charles Darwin University Art Collection and Art Gallery). It is accompanied by a full colour 72 page catalogue with contributions by **Professor Marcia Langton AM** (Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies, The University of Melbourne) and **Professor Ian McLean** (Research Professor in Australian art, University of Wollongong).

**roads cross: contemporary directions in Australian art** will be officially launched at Flinders University City Gallery on Thursday 28 June at 6pm by Ian North, Adjunct Professor, Visual Arts, University of Adelaide and University of South Australia.

Open to the public from Friday 29 June 2012 and continuing until Sunday 26 August 2012. Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 11–4pm, Saturday and Sunday 12–4pm.

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**Gus Clutterbuck**, *Broken things reveal an important story* (detail), 2012, slip cast porcelain glazed and unglazed, dimensions variable, courtesy of the artist, image Grant Hancock © courtesy the artist



**Pamela Lofts**, *Mightbe somewhere (Bathroom)* from the *Threshold* series 2007, diptych, C-type photograph on Ilochrome paper mounted on aluminium, edition 3/6, 80 x 240 cm, Araluen Art Collection, image and © courtesy the artist



This exhibition is supported by Visions of Australia, an Australian Government program supporting touring exhibitions by providing funding assistance for the development and touring of Australian cultural material across Australia.