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COME ON THE SCENE

A NEXT WAVE AND NETS VICTORIA TOURING EXHIBITION

Trevor FLINN
The Puma, the Stranger and the Mountain
2008
still from DVD
Courtesy the artist

NETS Victoria is proud to partner with Next Wave to present *Come on the Scene*, an engaging and interactive touring exhibition that showcases new works by five young regionally-based artists from Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia: **Ellen Coyle**, **Trevor Flinn**, **Carly Preston**, **Roderick Sprigg** and **Pip Stafford**.

Curated by **Jeff Khan** and **Tamara Marwood**, *Come on the Scene* features multimedia, sculpture, printmaking, performance, textile and installation works that examine relationships, identity, communication, mythology and popular culture. These 17 dynamic works provide a fresh perspective on regional Australia and the role of art in fostering a new sense of community and connectedness.

Arising from Next Wave's inaugural regional program, each artist represented in *Come on the Scene* developed an ambitious, large-scale new project, which was included in the 2008 Next Wave Festival. With the support of NETS Victoria, the artists have now redeveloped their work into a touring exhibition that takes the works back into regional Australia, to the communities and towns from which they originated.

Practising as a regional artist in 21st century Australia poses a formidable challenge, especially to young artists who are often isolated from their peers and immersed in the complicated process of establishing their artistic practice and figuring out their place within their community and its specific culture and history.

As Jeff Khan, co-curator and Artistic Director of Next Wave said, "The *Come on the Scene* artists tackle these challenges with intelligence, humour, and a critical eye."

"Their works reflect a great imaginative depth, in both manifesting ambitious ideas, and in the inspired processes they have developed to engage with their local communities and contexts," Mr Khan explained.

Through her performance and textile works, Bendigo-based artist **Ellen Coyle** explores the similarities and differences between people and their environments in terms of biological and sociological distinctions. Coyle's works in *Come on the Scene* have been inspired by Kurt Vonnegut's 1963 science fiction novel, *The Cat's Cradle*, and mathematical systems such as the Fibonacci number sequence and the Golden Ratio.

Trevor Flinn is a Dunkeld-based artist whose mixed media installation, *The Puma, the Stranger and the Mountain* investigates the legend of the Grampians puma, which allegedly stalks the district, terrorising livestock, yet has never been openly sighted. Through his sculpture and video, Flinn turns the myth into a rock star fantasy with the puma succumbing to the lure of fame.

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continued overleaf...

Ararat-based printmaker, **Carly Preston** explores the familial in her work, *Paper Wall*, in particular the decorative heirlooms that have adorned the houses of three generations of women. Blurring the division between art and interior decoration, *Paper Wall* is a motif from Preston's grandmother's crockery, which gently repeats the print patterns of ancestral domesticity.

Roderick Sprigg is a multi-disciplinary artist whose process and community-based practice centres on the politics of masculinity in regional communities. Through *Occasional Tables* Sprigg investigates the myth of manhood and inter-generational relationships in his hometown of Mukinbudin in the remote north-eastern wheat belt of Western Australia. Over the course of this project, Sprigg facilitated a carpentry workshop where family members worked together to build self-designed coffee tables. Filmed from above as they worked, the participants became performers as they crafted wood and memories in the accompanying documentary video installation.

Hobart-based artist **Pip Stafford** examines private lives and the notions of isolation and group communication in her interactive multimedia installation, *I Wish I Could Show You*. Stafford's confessional website <iwishicouldshowyou.com> features short videos, often shot on personal devices such as mobile phones or digital cameras, which capture elements of real life that, for some reason, cannot be shared face-to-face between two people. Gallery visitors will be able to be a part of *I Wish I Could Show You* by submitting their own messages.

Next Wave and NETS Victoria are committed to nurturing creative practices and innovative artistic cultures in regional Australia. *Come on the Scene* provides an opportunity to reflect on the enormous contributions that artists are making, and continue to make, in regional Australia.

Spanning 10 months, *Come on the Scene* will travel exclusively to five of the best public galleries in 2009: Warrnambool Art Gallery, Shepparton Art Gallery, Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery, Latrobe Regional Gallery and Horsham Regional Art Gallery.

For more information see: www.netsvictoria.org/comeonthescene

This comprehensive tour website includes further details about the exhibition, artist descriptions, interviews, a blog and an education resource for school groups to meaningfully engage with the works of art on display. Along with being an invaluable resource for gallery visits, this education resource also includes inspiring classroom and individual activities.

Destinations

- Warrnambool Art Gallery 14 February – 29 March 2009
- Shepparton Art Gallery 11 April – 31 May 2009
- Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery 12 June – 19 July 2009
- Latrobe Regional Gallery 1 August – 11 October 2009
- Horsham Regional Art Gallery 27 October – 20 December 2009

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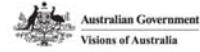
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TOURING PARTNERS

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PROJECT SUPPORTERS



The tour of this exhibition is supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria and the Community Support Fund

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