

[OUT OF GALLERY] a Series Of Guerrilla Exhibitions in Western Sydney brings together the works of over forty artists with the public of Western Sydney in the form of artist happenings, short-term exhibitions, public interventions, performances and other forms of contemporary art.

The project encases five distinct yet compatible art ventures: *Urban Architecture: Site Specific Interventions*, *Art Park: People, Ecology and Environment in Art*, *Art Trafficking*, *Other Places: New Media and Local Identities and Digital Landscapes*. Each project aims to present confrontational and unexpected dialogues and interactions with Western Sydney society through contemporary art. These five components within [OUT OF GALLERY] provide both artists and audiences with the stimuli to react to issues in our everyday contemporary culture.

In addition to presenting public artworks to the wide audiences of Western Sydney, the main intention of [OUT OF GALLERY] is to provide emerging artists with opportunities to exercise an inventive, unrestricted and resourceful public space of Western Sydney.

Urban Architecture: Site Specific Interventions invites artists to respond to and investigate local architectural sites and their history in Western Sydney. The selected artists David Charles Howell, Ruark Lewis and collaborating artists; Alicia Purnomo, Rachel Forbes and Megan Burns, well-known Squatspace, Vaughan O'Connor, Vincent O'Connor, Joan Ross, Lisa Mansfield, Marius Jastkowiak, Deb Baker, Liz Hale, Jake Oakley, Daniel H. Kojta, and Cecilie Cummings communicate openly the context of selected architectural sites, while at the same time had to finely tweak their proposals to fit around the existing spaces of their choice.

Placing the issue of art and environment in a social context, *Art Park: People, Ecology and Environment in Art* features the work of six artists: Justin Grainger, Averil Harris, Graham Chalcraft, Brendan Penzer and Jan Golembiewski. The general framework that describes their practices is present in each critical engagement with nature and culture, through a range of transformative art actions in various Western Sydney locations.

Participating artists and art groups, Art in motion, Liam Benson and Naomi Oliver, Red Room company, Caroline Huf, Nadia Daraphet, Zanny Begg, Vienna Perrano and Krzysztof Osinski, explore the exciting opportunities of *Art Trafficking*, a project that invites artists to respond to the urban transit culture of Western Sydney. By employing performance, digital media or through direct social interactions with commuters at places of frequent human traffic, the artists connect a large number of people to 'fortuitous forms' of contemporary art.

In *Other Places: New Media and Local Identities*, artists Huseyin Sami, Liam Benson, Fida Haq and Tanya White respond to Western Sydney's principal cultural topic – cultural diversity. In a series of short exhibitions, public interactions and performances, these artists will address this issue in stimulating, subtle and provocative ways.

Through several artists' collaborative projects *Digital Landscapes* explores the urban language of signs and the use of digital media within the expanse of natural landscapes of Western Sydney. Artists Adam Costenoble, Alison Clouston and Boyd, Marian Blakeney-McMahon and Ricardo Della-Rica, Melissa Ramos and Peter Newman and the group of artists collaborating on a public screen-based project VIDEO NASTY 2, bring a number of digital, video and sound artworks into the open urban and natural landscapes of Western Sydney.

Most of the artists selected for [OUT OF GALLERY] projects share a common idea about community art practice. Engaging with a variety of non-institutional forms of cultural distribution and interaction, a particular awareness about the accuracy of appropriate representation of community interests is one of the major curatorial concerns.

[OUT OF GALLERY] A Series of Guerrilla Exhibitions in Western Sydney anticipates the development of similar art initiatives in future that would make available opportunities to those artists who generally have very limited interest in the traditionally accepted and prevailing art market.

Adnan Begic

Curator < Western Front: Contemporary Art from Western Sydney

The project team would like to acknowledge the contribution and support of the following institutions which have contributed to the realisation of [OUT OF GALLERY] A Series of Guerrilla Exhibitions in Western Sydney: School of Contemporary Arts UWS, Community Cultural Development Unit Blacktown City Council, Property Services Blacktown City Council, Events Unit Blacktown City Council, Blacktown Aquatic Centre, Sydney Olympic Park, Liverpool Library, Nepean Hospital Penrith, and Elizabeth Farm as a property of the Historic Houses Trust.

[OUT OF GALLERY] Project team:

Peter E. Charuk, Project Leader

Adnan Begic, Curator

Daniel Wright, Project Assistant

[OUT OF GALLERY] A Series of Guerrilla Exhibitions in Western Sydney is supported by a UWS Regional and Community Grant Scheme. The project is an integral part of *Western Front: Contemporary Art from Western Sydney 2004 Campaign Programme*.



Blacktown Arts Centre
Open Tue to Fri 11 am - 5 pm
and Sat 12 pm - 4 pm
78 Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown
NSW 2148
Ph: (02) 9839 6558



< WESTERN FRONT | CONTEMPORARY ART FROM WESTERN SYDNEY

Western Front: Contemporary Art From Western Sydney is a Blacktown Arts Centre initiative, which aims to respond to the increasingly changing artistic, socio-cultural and economic circumstances of the region. The project's general objective is to correspond to these changes and re ect them through new artistic production that engages with the broad scope of cultural and social innovations.