



***Erased*: contemporary Australian drawing exhibition tours Asia**

Transforming, editing and removing matter is the theme of *Erased*, the first Australian drawing exhibition to be toured in Asia, and the idea is posing unusual challenges as well as rewards for organisers.

The ephemeral nature of the works – one artist, Raquel Ormella, uses white board markers on white boards – imposes not only a tension for the viewing audience, perhaps fearful that the images could easily disappear, but also for the curators and gallery staff involved in bringing the exhibition together.

“The idea of risk in the creative process, the loss and gain involved, is certainly heightened in the case of this exhibition,” says Asialink’s Visual Arts Manager Sarah Bond. “The title explores the precariousness of the works and the possibility of loss, but the irony is of course we’re working to make sure that doesn’t occur.”

Erased is the first time Australian drawings have been exhibited in Asia. It can be seen until 23 August in Singapore at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Gallery (NAFA), before travelling to Bangkok. Curated by Natasha Bullock, curator, Contemporary Art, Art Gallery of New South Wales, it includes the work of six internationally-renowned contemporary Australian artists engaged in transforming the definition of drawing.

The artists are Vernon Ah Kee (Brisbane), Christian Capurro (Melbourne), Simryn Gill (Sydney), Jonathan Jones (Sydney), Tom Nicholson (Melbourne) and Raquel Ormella (Sydney).

Each artist’s work in *Erased* is socially engaged, says Natasha Bullock, “from environmental awareness, identity politics and nationalism to more subtle statements about image-making in culture. Within their ongoing practices, these artists make work stemming from a sense of transformation or loss.”

The exhibition is part of Asialink’s visual arts touring program which has toured more than 70 exhibitions to date throughout Asia.

Asialink's Visual Arts Manager Sarah Bond says: "Asialink is thrilled to support this group project and we are very excited to launch the tour in Singapore. We are also thrilled to be partnering with the Art Gallery of New South Wales for the first time."

This exhibition has been developed by Asialink and the Art Gallery of New South Wales, and is supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australia Council.

Image: Tom Nicholson, Flags for a trades hall council, 2005

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ABOUT ASIALINK

Asialink is Australia's leading centre for the promotion of public understanding of the countries of Asia and of Australia's role in the region. Asialink is a department of the University of Melbourne and an initiative of the Myer Foundation.

www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au

About the Asialink Visual Arts Touring Program:

Asialink has toured over 70 exhibitions of contemporary Australian art and craft to more than 200 venues in Asia since 1991. These exhibitions have been prepared in partnership with museums and galleries around Australia and hosted by collegiate institutions and organisations in the region.

The program encourages and facilitates greater exchange of cultural material and information between Australia and Asian countries.