

NEWS FROM ISLAND

Katherine Huang uses every day material but instead of leaving these as blank issues of daily detritus, she imbues the mystery of alchemy into each installation. In her exhibition, *News From Island*, ordinary objects take on the poetry of the middle ages; each piece an important part of a bigger and more complicated equation. Using drawings, appropriated stationery and other found objects, Huang's work weaves a narrative from which many stories can be drawn out and pursued within the installation's own logic.

Huang is a Melbourne based artist, and was a finalist in the 1999 Moet and Chandon. *News from Island* is her first solo exhibition in Sydney.

GALLERY 4A

13 October - 6 November 1999

GALLERY 1

BIOIMMUNITIES

curated by Tiffany Lee-Shoy

Dong Wang Fan
Manuel Sharrad
Leonie Watson
Tammy Wong

GALLERY 2

News From Island

Katherine Huang

asian australia artists association incorporated
level 3, 53-55 liverpool street sydney 2000 nsw australia
telephone/facsimile +61 2 9283 1750, gallery4a@one.net.au
gallery hours: wednesday - saturday, noon-6pm
curator melissa chiu, asst curator tiffany lee-shoy

GALLERY 4A

BIOMORPHS

BIOMORPHS is an exhibition which explores the interfaces between the 'natural' human body and machines/ technology. Each of the four artists in this exhibition have been examining the biological body and the ways in which it can fuse with or be altered by technological procedures. Their explorations are informed by a number of perspectives - feminist theory, science and science fiction, pop culture. Dong Wang Fan presents cultural hybrids. In his paintings and sculptures, barriers between cultures are eroded - machine parts become animated to evoke live creatures, while the ungendered human body is simply another object to be manipulated on the picture plane. Leonie Watson's paintings examine parts of the human body, as if through a microscope, visually connecting the body and the industrial landscape. Her intimate oil paintings evoke flesh that melds into machine parts, with an eerie eroticism that both attracts and repulses. Manuel Sharrad's sculptures are influenced by his passion for early science fiction. His works are "lo-tech" solutions to his investigation into the comparative systems of the human body and computer circuit boards. Tammy Wong's ceramic pieces and photographs challenge stereotypes of beauty and identity. Her commercially-packaged dismembered facial parts, wryly offer her consumers a new identity without surgical procedures.

Tiffany Lee-Shoy, curator

Manuel Sharrad

"Imagine, at a young age, watching David Attenborough on the telly explaining the similarities between the biological make-up of a bird's feather and the structure of reptile scales (insert magnified photographs of each here). At that point, the boundaries between two species never seemed closer; that was until recently, when I took a long and hard look at my home stereo."

Sharrad most recently exhibited at Project Centre for Contemporary Art in Wollongong.

Dong Wang Fan

"There are visual ambiguities in my serial work *Descendant*. The computer generated mechanical figures represent a kind of futuristic creature that exists in my imagination. They are mechanical objects that have life, which is in the form of a body with legs, arms, or a tail. The backgrounds flowers are a reference to traditional Chinese fabric weaving. The human body is presented in this diverse and fluid cultural and technological environment. Beauty and disturbance are the two qualities in life and art." Fan migrated to Australia in 1990 as a 'Distinguished Talent'. He recently staged a solo exhibition at Wollongong City Gallery and was also featured in the 'Best of the Blake' national touring exhibition.

Tammy Wong

"The Identipart components mimic the role of products which alter physical identity in order to explore it as a form that is mutable, consumable, chosen and created by the individual. With the works progression, my interest has focused on interpretations according to environment and documentation. In recording Identiparts I have worked with Sean Ryan (photographer) to create images which emphasise cosmetic application. Daily Routine has aimed to record an individual make up routine as an accepted repetitious need to create an identity. The poster alludes to cosmetics as an alternative for surgical modification as a method of transformation.

Wong is a recent College of Fine Arts graduate, and was included in this year's *This Way Up* exhibition at Object Gallery.

Leonie Watson

Watson was the 1998 Resident Artist at Wollongong City Gallery, and has participated in group exhibitions in Wollongong, Sydney and Melbourne.