

# MEDIA RELEASE

*BIOMORPHS: SCI-FI Visions of Human Engineering*

*News From Island - Katherine Huang*

Gallery 4A is pleased to announce two new exhibitions by young artists, that respond to human inventions in the twentieth century, and expose the tools of hybridity, alchemy and engineering.

**BIOMORPHS** is an exhibition which explores the interfaces between the 'natural' human body and machines/ technology. It introduces the work of Dong Wang Fan, Leonie Watson, Manuel Sharrad and Tammy Wong, and is curated by Tiffany Lee-Shoy.

**Dong Wang Fan** presents a series of sculptures and paintings that erode the boundaries between a number of different cultural specifications - human and machine, East and West, animate and inanimate. His large-scale paintings depict Renaissance-like bodies with mechanical heads. These bizarre cyborg assemblages float in-between the patterns of a Chinese embroidered silk. 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' touring exhibition.

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

**Tammy Wong** is a recent College of Fine Arts graduate, and was included in this years *This Way Up* exhibition at Object Gallery. Her ceramic body parts and photograph series' question ideas of beauty and identity based on physical appearance alone.

**Manuel Sharrad's** intimate sculptures are influenced by his passion with early science fiction. The works address issues of redundant technologies, combining digitally manipulated images of human body systems with circuit boards and other computer systems. Sharrad most recently exhibited at Project Centre for Contemporary Art in Wollongong.

**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 1: *BIOMORPHS: Dong Wang Fan, Leonie Watson, Manuel Sharrad, Tammy Wong*  
 Gallery 2: *NEWS FROM ISLAND: Katherine Huang*  
 Preview: Wednesday 13 October 1999, 6-8 pm  
 Dates: 13 October - 6 November 1999  
 Venue: Gallery 4A, Level 3, 53-55 Liverpool St, Sydney, NSW, 2000  
 tel/fax 02 9283 1750  
 Gallery hours: Wednesday - Saturday, 12-6pm, or by appointment  
 Contact: Melissa Chiu, Curator, Tiffany Lee-Shoy, Asst Curator