



2011
**CASTLEMAINE
STATE FESTIVAL**
1-10 APRIL

MEDIA KIT

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Castlemaine Visual Arts Biennial

Pressing Issues: Art and printmaking abundant in Central Victoria

The 2011 Castlemaine Visual Arts Biennial (1-10 April) will host **significant visual artists** from Melbourne and indigenous communities from the top end of Australia, exhibiting alongside international artists **Heri Dono and William Kentridge**. More than **60 central Victorian artists, studios and galleries** will participate in curated and adjoining satellite exhibitions.

The inaugural 2009 Castlemaine Visual Arts Biennial was an integral component of the Castlemaine State Festival, emphasising the essential role of visual artists in the life of regional Victoria.

Pressing issues is a theme which has emerged from shared concerns in the environment of living and working contemporary artists. **Central Victoria is home to the greatest number of Australian printmakers** – therefore the art of printmaking from here and around the world has become a critical focus point for the 2011 Biennial, from age old traditional methods of lithography, etching and wood engraving to street paste-ups, film animations and 3D room installations.

The 2011 Biennial program has 5 distinct exhibitions curated by **Jason Smith (Heide Museum of Modern Art)**, **Martin King (Australian Print Workshop)** and **Samantha Comte (Michael Buxton Collection)**.

There are **two major exhibitions of Indigenous works**. The first, **Beyond Capricorn** features a rare collection of limited edition prints produced by the **Australian Print Workshop** in collaboration with **Indigenous artists from communities located above the Tropic of Capricorn**. This exhibition showcases a selection of key works resulting from Australian Print Workshop projects with artists from places including Aurukun (Qld); Bathurst Island (NT); Kalumburu (WA); Melville Island (NT); Moa Island, Torres Strait Islands; and Oenpelli (NT).

In the second major exhibition, **Figuring the Earth**, there is a focus on the integration of works by Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian artists. The exhibition features a large number of Mimih figures from **The Gabrielle Pizzi Collection** as well as work by **John Wolseley** and Castlemaine local **Judy Holding** – whose practices of working directly in remote landscapes evoke intense emotionally charged and at times playful artworks.

Taking over the Castlemaine Continuing Education building, **The Artist Rooms** are a series of site-response works which will be installed for the duration of the festival. Visual artists stretching the contemporary art boundaries through performance, installation, prints, film and paste-up include **Emily Floyd, Aleks Danko, Jill Orr, Melissa and Steven Proposch** as well as international artists **South African William Kentridge** and **Indonesian Heri Dono**. Heri Dono will be in residence and collaborating with the very fortunate students from the Castlemaine Secondary College.

Pressing Issues — The Exhibition is the Biennial flagship exhibition, representing artists who have an association with central Victoria. Artists include **Kim Barter, Kevin Foley, Catherine Pilgrim, David Frazer, Jan Palethorpe, Robert Jacks, Kate Stones, Tim Jones, Jeff Makin, Rhyl Plant, Wayne Viney, Nicola Loder and Clayton Tremlett**.

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www.castlemainefestival.com.au

