

For Immediate Release
3 June 2005

APT 2006 — first exhibition at new Queensland Gallery of Modern Art

The next 'Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art' (APT) will be the first major exhibition at the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art.

Minister for the Arts Anna Bligh said APT 2006 would attract unprecedented attention when it opened in November 2006 at the much anticipated new Queensland Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane.

"The APT is recognised as one of Australia's most exciting and significant arts events," she said.

"This APT will be presented across two sites — the Queensland Art Gallery and the new Queensland Gallery of Modern Art.

"The exhibition will use spaces that have come to be identified with the APT, such as the Queensland Art Gallery's spectacular Watermall, and it seems fitting that this flagship project should also introduce Queenslanders, as well as national and international visitors, to the new Queensland Gallery of Modern Art.

"The Queensland Gallery of Modern Art will be Australia's largest gallery of modern art and the first to house a purpose-built Cinémathèque."

Queensland Art Gallery Chair Wayne Goss said the APT remained the only major series of exhibitions in the world to focus on the contemporary art of both Asia and the Pacific.

"Since its establishment in 1993, more than half a million people have visited the APT exhibitions, peaking with more than 220 000 at APT 2002," he said.

Gallery Director Doug Hall said APT 2006, the fifth in the series, would present a focused exploration of the work of up to 35 artists from throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Hall said the first group of artists confirmed for APT 2006 were: Anish Kapoor (India/UK), The Long March (Collective, China), Ozawa Tsuyoshi (Japan), Stephen Page (Australia), Michael Parekowhai (New Zealand), John Pule (Niue/New Zealand), Kumar Shahani (India), Talvin Singh (UK), Michael Stevenson (New Zealand), Masami Teraoka (Japan/USA), Sima Urale (Samoa/New Zealand), Ai Weiwei (China), Yang Fudong (China) and Yang Zhenzhong (China).

Indian-born Anish Kapoor, renowned for his enigmatic sculptural forms and large-scale installations, will be represented by a body of work spanning 20 years.

Senior Japanese artist Masami Teraoka combines popular and traditional imagery to comment on environmental degradation and the effects of globalisation.

From China, the APT will include Ai Weiwei, one of the first Chinese artists to oppose propaganda art, and Yang Zhenzhong, a young Shanghai artist, whose photographic and video works comment on China's contemporary political, cultural and social issues. The Long March is an extraordinary collaborative project that began in 2002, and involves Chinese and international artists.

Pacific artists represented in APT 2006 will include Michael Parekowhai, one of New Zealand's leading contemporary Maori artists, John Pule, a prominent Niuean artist, and New Zealand installation artist Michael Stevenson.

"APT 2006 will feature a program of performance-based art and, for the first time, a curated cinema program, which will bring a dynamic new dimension to the exhibition," Mr Hall said.

As well as Indigenous Australian performing artist Stephen Page, Artistic Director of Bangarra Dance Theatre, the performance program will include influential musician and producer Talvin Singh, a leading exponent of Asian world music.

Film-makers in APT 2006 will include senior Indian film-maker Kumar Shahani, Chinese artist Yang Fudong, and Samoan-born Sima Urale, a strong new voice in New Zealand film-making.

Mr Hall said the APT was distinguished from other international art events by its collecting focus and the Gallery had embarked on a major acquisitions campaign to secure works for APT 2006.

Drawing on more than a decade of experience and expertise, APT 2006 will be curated by a team of Queensland Art Gallery curators who have travelled extensively throughout the region, consulting with artists and a broad network of advisors and colleagues.

Ms Bligh said the artists announced so far reflected the results of research and consultation to date, and that APT 2006 was expected to include up to 20 more artists.

"To have confirmed artists of this calibre for the next APT reflects the reach of the Gallery and its reputation within the national and international arts communities," she said.

"But importantly, APT's attendances — and the popularity of educational programming such as the Kids' APT and the children's festival — show that this project has also made contemporary art accessible to a wide and growing audience."

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