

COMODAA

CONTEMPORARY MODERN AUSTRALIAN ART



only

COMODAA

presents

AUSTRALIA NOW

An Exhibition of Contemporary Australian Art

September 16th - 28th 2009

3 Bedfordbury Gallery

Covent Garden

London

www.comodaa.com

ABOUT COMODAA

Launched in 2009, COMODAA (Contemporary Modern Australian Art) was established to promote Australian art to a wider international audience and give talented contemporary artists new exposure. Our mission is to present and promote serious contemporary Australian art by a select, collectable and highly respected group of innovative artists.

COMODAA is a privately owned independent art business that is not tied to any other gallery, dealer or auction house. This enables greater flexibility with a personal bespoke service on offer.

Founder and Director of COMODAA, Jonathan White, moved to Australia in early 2001 and has lived in both Melbourne and Sydney. He has worked in the Australian art market for the past 7 years. In this time Jonathan has amassed a wealth of experience including running a Sydney gallery, curating many exhibitions both in Australia and Asia, advising to private and public collections including The Australian Museum and MCA (Museum of Contemporary Art) and visiting many of the Aboriginal Art Centers in the Central and Western Desert, meeting the artists and handpicking artworks for exhibitions.

Through a regular exhibition schedule starting in September 2009 COMODAA will undertake various solo and group exhibitions in London to showcase the current contemporary artists of Non-Indigenous and Indigenous Australia.

As well as regular exhibitions COMODAA's primary home will be its website, www.comodaa.com. Visitors to the site are able to view artworks, find out about current & upcoming exhibitions and read the latest news on COMODAA artists. The website also provides a membership facility to My COMODAA (the personal members page). Here guests are able to create their own gallery or wishlist, preview upcoming exhibitions, enjoy monthly updates in the form of a newsletter, Australian art market updates/auction results and new paintings from the COMODAA artists. In addition members can update their profile and have access to the latest artworks released. As a launching gift from COMODAA annual membership will be free until the end of 2009. Any visitors or members who purchase artworks from COMODAA become Clients and automatically receive free membership.

One of the main benefits of becoming a member of My COMODAA is the bespoke advice on what and who to buy, whether it is for a collection or part of an investment portfolio. Advice is also available for art portfolio management. Membership to My COMODAA also allows members to obtain guidance on framing, shipping, valuations, cataloguing, conservation and restoration.

COMODAA has facilities in place to allow clients to purchase artworks by way of payment plans.

A permanent gallery in the UK is planned for 2011.

EXHIBITING

Giles Alexander

Kieran Antill

Jimmy Baker

Stefan Dunlop

Jane Fontane

Sam Leach

Helen Tyalmuty McCarthy

Maryanne Nampijimpa Michaels

Jackson Slattery

JANE FONTANE

"I hope when people see my work, regardless of their nationality or culture or age, that they enjoy it. It might bring up childhood memories for them or simply represent a happiness that they have or want in their lives. Or they may view it as something that they just feel like they could look at every day. Ultimately I want the audience to have their own interaction with the works, separate from my intentions. As a 'young contemporary' artist I hope the work is viewed as original and as a measure of where young Australian art is at."
- Jane Fontane, May 2009

Born in 1984 Sydney based artist Jane Fontane is the youngest of four children and grew up surrounded by toys such as her two older brother's Transformers and her older sister's Barbies.

Resonating throughout her accomplished printmaking style, Jane develops ideas of youth and a desire to cling to ideals and icons of childhood as well as the individual's perception of memory. By exploring these themes in her art, Jane hopes to understand the infantilisation of society and the impact of this. Her art also comments on the ongoing pressure applied to children and the consequences of this for society.

In her first UK exhibition, Jane is showcasing four brand new works, which have been screenprinted with an acrylic based paint onto a heavy weight 100% cotton paper. The works are all 760 x 1067 mm in size. These cartoon-like works at first glance mask the fact they are grappling with a more serious theme represented by the notion of the superhero as a child, or conversely the child as a child dressed up as a superhero. The superheroes of choice are Robin (of Batman and Robin fame), The Phantom, Wolverine and The Flash.

Once more Jane is examining the societal pressures and sometimes unachievable expectations placed on modern youth: the result being a trend towards the infantilisation of adults. She explores the pressures children experience that translates into an inability or a refusal to ever really grow up.

Continuing Jane's previously explored themes of the "kidult" and the "Adolescent", these memorable images also represent the youth that we are trying to regain, that feeling of freedom and ultimately happiness. The boys appear as mug shots, almost as if they have been caught being children, playing games and dressing up. The irony being they are indeed children. Jane's work is not about condemning this behaviour but more a comment on the indictment of how we perceive children, through her own eyes.

Two years ago Jane graduated from the University of New South Wales College of Fine Arts, with a degree in Fine Arts with First Class Honours majoring in Printmaking. More recently, she completed a degree in art education.

Jane's Australian exhibiting experiences include the Willoughby Art Prize (where she was awarded Highly Commended Student Work), Geelong Art Prize, Metro 5 Art Prize Finalist, Art Sydney and Art Melbourne. In 2007 and 2008 she was incorporated into United Galleries' major group exhibition Hip / Pop, an annual show exhibiting the best of young fresh exciting Australian talent. Jane's debut solo show was held at Saatchi & Saatchi's galleries in Sydney last October.

A Generation Y star on the rise, this young artist's work is already coveted: her work is held in private collections globally and a multi-panel screen print This Was No Disguise (Alexander's Revenge) has been acquired by Art Bank, an Australian Government arts support program and the country's largest buyer of contemporary Australian art.



Jane Fontane
You've Got it Made With the Rest of the Toys, 2009
Screenprint, edition of 15
107 x 76 cm