

HOLLY STORY *SKIN DEEP* + PETER DAILEY *SYMBIOSIS*

28 APRIL - 26 MAY 2007
Opening 6 - 8pm Friday 27 April

Turner Galleries is very pleased to present two concurrent solo exhibitions by Western Australian mid career artists Holly Story and Peter Dailey.

Holly Story's exhibition of prints and objects is inspired by her love of Deep River, a biodiversity hotspot in the South West of WA. She stated, "In my recent practice I have been exploring notions of "landscape" and "place" and the role of the body and memory in their cultural construction. The direction of my new work shifts the emphasis more particularly onto the sensory nature of human perception and I am excited by the potential of the work to articulate a corporeal sensibility in relation to environmental politics..."

"My ideas have been influenced by the discourses of phenomenology - the philosophy of perception – and the writings of David Abram, in particular his interpretation of the ideas of the philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty, who stated, "...the boundaries of a living body are open and indeterminate; more like membranes than barriers, they define a surface of metamorphosis and exchange."

Holly's work focuses on these surfaces of 'metamorphosis and exchange', developing forms that evoke plant, animal and human "skins" in a fluid continuum of internal and external surfaces. Hand-dyed and stitched blankets become metaphors for skins, pelts or coverings. Native plant matter and human hair are pressed into the soft pliable surface of thin lead sheets, leaving intricate details, like fragments of memory. These "nature pressings" are based on techniques used by early botanists to record specimens. Through this investigation Holly hopes to further her, and her viewers', understanding of the interdependence of the human and natural world.

A comprehensive full colour catalogue will accompany Holly's exhibition. It contains essays by Bronwyn Goss, eminent West Australian artist and writer, and Dr Stephen Hopper, Foundation Professor of Plant Conservation Biology at the University of WA and, as of last year, the 14th Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew.

Peter Dailey's new work is also inspired by plant forms and the interaction of humans with the natural world. However, his explorations take him on a somewhat darker route than Holly's. Peter's exhibition includes two large-scale paintings, a series of painted studies, a set of charcoal drawings and six major sculptural forms. The sculptures consist of large Perspex test tubes that are mounted onto stainless steel tables and encase bizarre hybrid plant forms. Their laboratory appearance makes the viewer question man's intervention with nature, such as genetic modification and cloning.

Peter speculates about, "the notion of an internal structure to the nature of all things and whether we can fully understand such a concept through scientific processes alone. Where does such scientific inquiry leave an intuitive or instinctive approach to the exploration of these notions, and how far can humans manipulate nature without a degree of randomness reasserting itself?"

His images are derived from organic forms, such as plant structures, both as a literal representation of nature and as a metaphor for the nature of all things. The formal characteristics of the artworks create an ambiguity of scale, as in micro or macro, and allude to the dichotomy between the organic and the inorganic or built. They are intended as scientific ciphers for us to question how we use our knowledge to interpret the land and how much we are able to understand the landscape through a scientific process alone.

Please do not hesitate to contact staff on 08 9227 1077 or email info@turnergalleries.com.au should you require more information or images from the exhibition. Exhibition works will be available to view on line: www.turnergalleries.com.au and both artists are available for interviews.

