

LOUISE PARAMOR *SQUARE* PHILIP WARD-DICKSON *BANKSIA*

8 AUGUST - 6 SEPTEMBER 2008
opening 6 - 8pm Friday 8 August

Turner Galleries are very pleased to present two concurrent solo exhibitions by two important mid career artists: Louise Paramor and Philip Ward-Dickson.

This is **Louise Paramor's** second exhibition with us, the first being a residency exhibition back in 2004 when we were in Claremont as The Church Gallery. That exhibition consisted of large scale collages based on the covers of Mills & Boon romantic novels. Louise hand painted the sheets of paper with gloss enamel paints before cutting them up.

These left over paints became the inspiration for the next series of works, where she has dripped and poured paint over the canvas surface. She stated, "this series of work began in a rather oblique way. At the end of 2006 I was presented with two small blank canvases to work on for an 'end of year' exhibition. At the time I was a bit bamboozled by the suggestion, but set about to muck around with what was at hand in my studio – at the time, left over gloss enamel paints. As it turned out I really enjoyed experimenting with colour and abstraction in this way, and was inspired by the very substance of paint itself. Since this time, I have become more interested in the principals of modernist abstract painting and the clichés thereof, which, in turn, informs my approach to the genre."

Whilst the choice of bright colours echo previous works, whether they be the FOREVERYOURS collages or the sculptural assemblages that followed, these new paintings are far more gestural and looser than previous works. Fields of colours pool together, cloying into visceral combinations, against stark white backgrounds. The paint has sometimes crinkled whilst drying, due to its thickness, and in other areas thin translucent paints both reveal and transform the colours beneath.

Louise, formerly from Perth, currently lives and works in Melbourne and her artworks can be found in many important collections, including the National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of WA, South Melbourne City Council, Curtin University, University of WA, John McBride Collection Sydney, and the Monash University Museum.

Philip Ward-Dickson's recent work is also an exciting new direction for this local artist. He too has moved from realistic representation - who could forget the exquisite memento mori paintings from the 1990s - to larger scale abstractions of single objects. This new series of works reveals an infatuation with the humble West Australian Banksia leaf, and there is still a strong connection with his previous paintings. He stated, "some of the paintings can be perceived as memento mori for the missing Banksia and Eucalypt forests cleared during the construction of this city and the associated sprawling suburbia. Negative space and the simple pulsation of object on background allowed the suggestion of not only what is there but what was there. What is missing is made all the more evident every time I walk through the remaining remnant Tuart and Banksia forests of Bold Park and see glimpses of the distant city towers, ominous reminders that this is merely a token forest."

These exquisite paintings have a luminous surface created by applying semi-translucent layers of paint, each layer revealing evidence of the layer beneath. The Banksia leaf shapes float in oceans of vibrant fields of dappled colour, inspired by the light, textures and colours of Australia. Philip has created a unique method of representing our flora, removing them from the 'traditional vase on the table' and imbuing them with a spirit and symbolism that is very West Australian.

Philip's paintings can be found in the collections of the Art Gallery of Western Australia, the Holmes á Court Collection, Royal Perth Hospital Art Collection, and the City of Wanneroo.

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.