

TOBIAS RICHARDSON
Circumambulation 2007 &
Sequential Spatial Experience 2008/09

6 February - 7 March 2009
Opening 6 - 8pm Friday 6 February

It is with great pleasure that staff from Turner Galleries welcome their first artist in residence for 2009, Tobias Richardson. Currently on his way home to Darwin, from a studio sojourn in Paris, Tobias will arrive in Perth to undertake his exhibition and residency with Turner Galleries and Central Tafe at the end of January.

Tobias will be exhibiting not one but two exhibitions of recent work. *Circumambulation* was exhibited in 2007 at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney, in *Cross Currents*, curated by the late John Stringer. *Circumambulation* consists of multiple paintings of the Kabah, in striking red, black and white. Approximately 150 from the series will be displayed. Tobias wrote about his obsession with this building;

The Kabah is a shrine in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. It is a cube shaped granite structure that is very ancient. The Kabah is commonly shown in pictures shrouded by black cloth. The Kabah is an important spiritual site for many peoples.

I first became inspired by the Kabah whilst travelling in Burma where I saw hi-tech images of the Kabah in posters being sold on the streets of Yangon. The more I researched the Kabah the more I uncovered a rich symbolism resulting from layer upon layer of history. I was drawn to the simplicity of the Kabah's shape and saw a structure of great allegorical power.

The Kabah represents the oneness of mankind. A pilgrimage to circle the Kabah is a confirmation of ones' faith that God will guide. It is from this ritual that I arrived at the exhibition's title - *Circumambulation*.

The more recent artworks on display will be from *Sequential spatial experience*, a series of architectural watercolour studies completed over 2008 and earlier this year, whilst Tobias was in Paris. Tobias is developing a series of studies of buildings from his past, either places visited or places he loves through books. These buildings expose a day-to-day rawness of everyday living and middle grounds. He noted that they were important to him because of "his 'insignificant' history. It's a way of coding memory. The title, *Sequential spatial experience*, signifies the notion that architecture needs to be experienced by moving through built forms. The drawings will consist of images from my school days, teenage mayhem, first girlfriends, recent travels to Asia and a childhood in Europe where I connected and fell in love with the Medieval."

Tobias has travelled and exhibited widely. He received his Diploma of Art from the East Sydney Technical College in 1987 and went on to do a Bachelor of Fine Arts in San Francisco in 1991. He currently resides, and teaches, in Darwin. His artworks can be found in the collections of Artbank, Griffith University, Charles Darwin University, NT Government House, NT Supreme Court, Perc Tucker Regional Art Gallery, Museum & Art Gallery of NT, and Galeri Petronas Malaysia.

Tobias is represented by Raft Artspace in Darwin.

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. Tobias will be in Perth for his residency and exhibition, and will be available for interviews and photo opportunities, from 1 to 29 February.

Tobias Richardson's residency is proudly sponsored by Turner Galleries Art Angels and Central Tafe.