
• nellie castan gallery

MEDIA RELEASE

Gordon Hookey: www.gordonhoo.com

5 May – 28 May 2005

The art of Indigenous artist **Gordon Hookey** presents an explosion of raw emotion and frustration, bringing to the foreground a number of historical and contemporary Australian political issues. **Hookey** uses the brightly coloured canvas as a playing field to flesh out the deep seeded matters on Indigenous injustices, the war in Iraq, the relationship between Australia and other Western Countries, immigration, and federal politics.

Amongst new canvases on display in **Hookey's** first solo show in Melbourne at Nellie Castan Gallery will be *Paranoia Annoy Ya*, a site-specific installation produced with the support of the **Casula Powerhouse Art Centre for the Biennale of Sydney in 2004**. In this major work **Hookey** utilises iconic Australian imagery juxtaposed with quick wit humour to comment on the meeting of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australian cultures. **www.gordonhoo.com** will introduce Melbourne to *Paranoia Annoy Ya* after much talk and success in Sydney. Curator of the Biennale of Sydney Isabel Carlos comments,

*... **Hookey's** paintings temper a profound frustration with the historical treatment of Aboriginal people by employing keen wit and scathing humour. The artist's line of attack draws attention to the plight of his people in their fight for compensation and their struggle to reclaim dignity, identity and respect.*

Hookey's art has created great controversy and talk through national and international exhibitions as seen in ***Colour Power: Aboriginal Art Post 1984*** at the Ian Potter Centre: National Gallery of Victoria. His paintings burst off the canvas with their blistering text, cartoon like caricatures and intensity of colour that reflects **Hookey's** intensity of opinion. Inspiring in their spirit, they educate with wit and humour.

www.gordonhoo.com reminds the viewer of current issues and questions in contemporary society. It does not claim to answer these questions, but puts forward an alternate view that **Hookey** hears on Australian streets everyday. He says,

As an artist I'm responding to my environment. Someone said that all that we are doing is that we're screaming out loud what people are whispering: so I guess in a way [my art] echoes that.

Hookey completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of New South Wales in 1992. He is the recipient of numerous grants and awards and is represented in significant collections around Australia and overseas.

for images and further information please contact olivia@nelliecastangallery.com

level 1, 12 river street, south yarra, victoria 3141

opening: 6-8pm thursday 5 may

exhibition ends: saturday 28 may

hrs: tuesday to saturday 11am - 5pm t: 03 9804 7366
