
• nellie castan gallery

MEDIA RELEASE

Penelope Davis: Tissue Issue

18 August – 10 September 2005

Following an Australia Council studio residency in Tokyo, Penelope Davis' new work employs transparent Japanese tissue packets that are distributed as a mode of advertising in Tokyo streets, and model characters from Japanese anime and manga. Using the cameraless technique of the photogram in the dark room, these objects are placed directly onto photographic paper and exposed to variations of coloured and filtered light, followed by further manipulations on the computer. The final images are visually sumptuous and evocative. The bright saturated colours and strange inversions that have occurred recall after-images of Tokyo neon at night.

Davis has placed much smaller, 'traditional' photographs between the photograms. These photographs offer glimpses of the transitional in-between spaces of a cluttered urban environment, their placement amongst the photograms evading simple narrative conclusions.

Davis' works play with photography's conventions, producing images that are recognisable as photographic but which make the processes of their creation and the origins of their subject matter mysterious. In this way simple assumptions of objectivity, reality and literal depiction are rendered complex. The objects used in her photograms provide a pivot for a number of issues, particularly those of commodification, signage and fabrication. The works in *Tissue Issue* explore the metamorphoses that occur between nature and culture, between image and text and between the photograph and its source.

Penelope Davis has exhibited extensively throughout Australia and was one of the 2003 recipients of an Australia Council for the Arts Studio Residency in Tokyo. Her image, *Red 2*, is the cover image for the National Gallery of Victoria publication, *2nd Sight: Australian Photography in the National Gallery of Victoria*. She is the recipient of a Melbourne Research Scholarship, and is currently attending the Victorian College of the Arts to complete her Masters of Fine Art. She completed a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne in 1985 and Post-Graduate Diploma of Fine Art from the Victorian College of the Arts in 1997. This is Davis' second solo exhibition at Nellie Castan Gallery.

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

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

opening: 6-8pm thursday 18 august

exhibition ends: saturday 10 september

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