

SNO @ Abbotsleigh

7 to 27 May 2014

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery at Abbotsleigh presents a group exhibition from the artist run initiative **SNO, Sydney Non Objective Contemporary Art Projects**, at Marrickville. At the exhibition opening on Saturday 10 May Emeritus professor Richard Dunn clarified the work of SNO artists:

SNO - Sydney Non Objective - was started in March 2005 in Marrickville by a group of artists - from both sides of the country - whose interest is, generally speaking, in work without images - concrete or non-objective art. An art that doesn't represent a subject external to itself but is inventive, diverse and sometimes startling. It is, rather, the color, form and material, and the imaginative thinking of the artists that constitute the art work. Strictly speaking this is what differentiates non objective art from abstract art, where forms and colours may come from, or suggest something external to the work, such as a landscape and formal or colour problems are solved in this way.

Professor Dunn added:

SNO operates against the grain of narrative art; art that depends on the weaving of stories around it, that needs to be described in an engaging parallel text. SNO has consistently shown work that largely escapes the attention of Sydney's museums and commercial galleries, even though it commands attention of a responsive eye, because it is so interesting, intelligent, and fine. SNO shows art that asks questions, and has no answers.

SNO was set up to provide an alternative approach within contemporary Australian art that is supported by a curated public exhibition and education program. In developing these programs, SNO has established a number of important projects. These include a particular focus on providing support to young and emerging artists; the development of international networks with similar artist collectives in Europe, USA and Asia resulting in a series of international exchanges and exhibitions; the inclusion of a parallel sound work and performance program and regular lectures and seminars aimed at increasing awareness of contemporary non-objective art.

SNO@ABBOTSLEIGH reflects a wide variety of approaches to art forms that provide a deepening and increased awareness of contemporary non-objective art. SNO creates a critical balance between different levels of artistic experience to sustain a policy of innovation and integration of new ideas, often by presenting established and emerging artists together. Ian Andrews, Susan Andrews, Syd Ball, Belle Blau, Adrian Clement, Sophia Egarchos, Lynne Eastaway, Billy Gruner, Suzie Idiens, Sarah Keighery, Andrew Leslie, Ruark Lewis, Adrian McDonald, Rik Rue and Ken Villa are included in this exhibition.

Billy Gruner continued his publicly assisted contemporary artwork *Collective Monochrome*, an international project that has been seen in 25 other locations worldwide since 2005. In this work exhibition visitors are invited to take part. By signing on, taking the brush and adding their own mark in red paint the visitor contributes as an artist to this collaborative artwork over the duration of exhibition.

The exhibition opening included a performance by Kraig Grady, Jim Denley and Terumi Narushima titled *Clocks and Clouds*. It featured retuned vibraphone, pump organ and other acoustic instruments built by Grady. These unique instruments, with their pure harmonic tuning, explored the beauty of the room resonances via ancient sacred scales and multi-dimensional geometries.

The SNO Program is supported by Marrickville Council, by the Australian Government through its Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy and assisted by the NSW government through Arts NSW.

SNO

Contemporary Art Projects
sno.org.au



The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery is a not-for-profit project run by Abbotsleigh and serves the public through free admission and an education program.

The gallery is open Monday to Saturday from 10 am-5 pm

Enter via Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway Wahroonga