

Art and Sustainability

Invitation to a Free Public Forum

Date: Saturday June 21

Time: 2 pm – 4 pm

Location: Brunswick Town Hall, 233 Sydney Road (corner Sydney Rd and Dawson St), Brunswick, VIC

Can artists contribute to solving the environmental challenges of the 21st Century? Are they passive observers, chroniclers and commentators on the major issues of their time? Or are they active participants incorporating sustainable practices in their work and contributing aesthetic solutions to climate change, water scarcity, resource management and preservation of the natural environment?

Art will always have a relationship with nature and people. But is it a symbiotic relationship? Is it active or passive? The Exhibition “Embodied Energy”, currently showing at the Counihan Gallery In Brunswick, features thirteen artists who actively address issues of sustainability in their practice. The exhibition continues until Sunday 29 June 2008.

The Saturday afternoon Forum will go one step further and consider the role of art and creativity in addressing contemporary social and environmental challenges. It will feature both artists exhibiting in the exhibition and guests who will offer their thoughts on the topic of art and sustainability.

Speakers at the forum include:

- Welcome by Cr Alice Pryor, Councilor responsible for Social Development, Moreland City Council
- Penny Algar and Edwina Bartlem, *Embodied Energy* Curators
- Mary Crook, Director of the Victorian Women’s Trust
- Chaco Kato, *Embodied Energy* artist
- Dr Kumi Kato, Environmental Studies, University of Wakayama, Japan and University of Queensland
- Paul Murfitt, CEO, Moreland Energy Foundation (MEFL)
- Paul Pennacchia, architect , SJB Architects
- Vin Ryan, *Embodied Energy* artist
- Deb Taylor, *Embodied Energy* artist
- Sue Thomas, PhD Candidate and lecturer RMIT Textiles

Afternoon tea will be provided.

Bookings and Enquires: Counihan Gallery In Brunswick on 9389 8622.

The speakers:

- **Artists Chaco Kato, Vin Ryan and Deb Taylor**

Chaco, Vin and Deb have works in the exhibition *Embodied Energy* exhibition currently showing at the Counihan Gallery. Each has a strong commitment to the notion of a sustainable art practice. Together their work covers a wide range of art practices including installation, drawing and printmaking.

- **Mary Crooks**

Since November 1996, Mary has been the Executive Director of the Victorian Women's Trust. She has recently served on a ministerial committee to develop a Water Strategy for Melbourne for the next 50 years and has combined an interest in water use and women's great capacity for local level leadership by designing a current program for civic engagement called *Watermark Australia*. She was also instrumental in bringing together the hugely acclaimed exhibition and book *Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives*, celebrating women's contribution to society over the past century.

- **Kumi Kato**

Dr Kumi Kato, is a member of ECCO, Exchanging Culture for Conservation and Foundation Professor in Environmental Studies, University of Wakayama and University of Queensland. Kumi collaborated with sound artist Ros Bandt on the sound installation "Shima" exhibited in the "Embodied Energy" Exhibition at the Counihan Gallery. Her main research interest is in community initiatives in conservation and her papers are widely published in academic journals.

- **Paul Murfitt**

Paul is the CEO of the Moreland Energy Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Moreland community and beyond. Paul has worked and studied in environmental and sustainability fields for almost 20 years, for both government and community-based organizations. Paul also teaches in sustainability-related courses at RMIT.

- **Sue Thomas**

Sue Thomas is a British born fashion academic teaching at RMIT University and also currently studying for a doctorate on the relationship between ethics and sustainability in the fashion industry. A listed RMIT media expert Sue enjoys making a broad contribution to fashion and social justice issues in a wide range of public forums with regular contributions on ABC Radio 774. Recent publications have included papers on inclusive fashion design, the future of wool, ethics and innovation, 'green wool', and social justice in fashion.

- **Paulo Pennacchia**

Paulo Pennacchia is an architect with SJB architects. He was the Project Architect for, 40 Albert Rd, South Melbourne, the first 6 star green rated commercial building in Australia.

- **Penny Algar and Edwina Bartlem**

Penny Algar is an artist with a research interest in arts and sustainability. She is currently completing a Masters in Public Art at RMIT. Edwina Bartlem is the Curator of the Counihan Gallery In Brunswick and has twenty years experience as a contemporary art curator.

***Embodied Energy* is supported through the Moreland Community Development Grant program and Arts Victoria.**

