

art of DISSENT

a national conference
spanning the Adelaide and
Melbourne Arts Festivals

MELBOURNE FESTIVAL 2002
Spiegeltent & Victorian Arts Centre
20 - 22 October 2002



www.ArtOfDissent.com

featuring

THE ART OF DISSENT
Dissent and Democracy

BREAKING THE CODE
Disability & Genetic Engineering

FROM MARALINGA
back to country

BLACKFELLA/WHITEFELLA
toeing the line

BOUNDARIES & BORDERS
refugees, multiculturalism and dissent

SENI UNTUK SENI
seni untuk rakyat
(Art for Art; Art for the People)

PROPAGANDA OF THE DEED
cultural activism

WHOSE FESTIVAL?
can arts festivals embrace
community cultural development?

DEMOCRATISING CULTURE

SPEAKING FOR OURSELVES
dissent in the ranks

REVERSING THE FLOW
enabling regional voices

PERFORMING DISSENT

REPRESENTING DIFFERENCE
from fringe to mainstream
OR: when's the celebration over?

RADICAL BODIES

cultural action events
boatpeople.com & more

CONFERENCE HOSTS



about art of **DISSENT**



A national conference, spanning the Adelaide and Melbourne Arts Festivals, for artists and community activists working at the frontier of social and cultural change.

The program will explore the dilemmas and ethics of contemporary art practice created from artists' deep engagement with communities in diverse social contexts. Passion and politics are the driving forces in a program that will attempt to go beyond the accepted jargon of 'industry models', 'marketing strategies' and 'sponsor needs' to explore a brave new territory where labels such as 'community' versus 'mainstream' are irrelevant.

If you want to explore the hard issues of cultural expression outside the safe haven of traditional arts definitions, this is the conference for you.

We begin with a symposium at the Adelaide Festival in March and reconvene for a three day conference in October at the Melbourne Festival of Arts.



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20 October 2002

On behalf of the Conference Steering Committee I am pleased to welcome you to Art of Dissent, a national arts conference that began with a series of forums at the Adelaide Festival earlier this year and now culminates in Melbourne as part of the Melbourne Festival.

While there has been much talk about the 'industry' and economic aspects of the arts in Australia in recent years, we are among many who believe there has been too little concentrated focus on the more fundamental role of the arts in our lives. We initiated this conference to create a free space where the discourse about arts is set exclusively in a social and cultural context. Our purposes in hosting this conference is best explained through the words of the two visionary Artistic Directors of our Festival partners, whose leadership and support for our efforts I would like to publicly and gratefully acknowledge:

"The world is at war, and lack of adequate support for the arts, education, youth, cultural diversity and community infrastructure is the current reality of global crisis. What forms will meaningful social participation take?....."

"This is a time for re-seeding the grass roots movement both in terms of government and in the arts. Let us really dig into the grass roots. Let us open this up. Let us deepen the discussion."

Peter Sellars, Artistic Director, Adelaide Festival 2002

"One of the main problems we all face today is the difficulty of getting to the heart of things and then trying to find our way through to a position we can act on. It is fashionable to have some kind of strong opinion - left or right - and people gladly divide on party lines and follow or oppose the shock jocks and the papers. But it's really unfashionable to try and dig beneath the surface, not accept the party line, think things through before you speak or act, try to apply the much more complex tenets of ethics rather than simply proclaiming you have occupied the high moral ground. This is where art is absolutely indispensable in our lives - art as dialectic, art as catharsis, art that can shift your ground and destabilise our complacency (on both sides of the political fence), art which can show us the consequences of our actions before we act."

Robyn Archer, Artistic Director, Melbourne Festival 2002

Clearly, free and unfettered creative expression and dissent are essential ingredients for a healthy society and are fundamental to our ongoing pursuit of true democracy. We hope this conference contributes to both. We rely on your active participation to make it so.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judy Spokes".

Judy Spokes
Cultural Development Network

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THEMES

Social Change Movements

- > How effective are cultural tools in working for social change?
- > Who owns culture?
- > For art's sake, what is community?
- > Joining the dots—the place of the Indigenous in art and culture
- > What relevance do the arts have in social change?
- > When ethnic dancing is subversive—re-evaluating multicultural arts
- > Popular and elite, authentic and excellent—measuring the measures of artistic practice

Land, Environment and Sustainability

- > Indigenous arts, land and sustainability
- > Can the arts change our relationship to land and identity?
- > Art of and for the planet
- > Creating alliances between cultural and environment movements
- > Sustainable social and cultural change—who will be driving it?

The Art of gLoCaLisation

- > Challenging the global locally
- > National culture in a time of subtle (and not so subtle) xenophobia
- > Creating and subverting popular culture
- > Can culture be democratised?
- > Multicultural arts—beyond spaghetti and polka

New Media and Cultural Change

- > The work of art in the age of mechanical reproduction
- > New Indigenous media
- > A multicultural superhighway—new channels, diasporic audiences
- > Virtual spaces—just how much space?
- > Online communities, open source cultures, hacker aesthetics
- > Old media and new—how to develop challenging, relevant content?
- > The cultural dimension of independent media

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SPEAKERS

THE ART OF DISSENT & shy; DISSENT AND DEMOCRACY
Guy Rundle - Deborah Kelly - Margot Kingston - and more...

BREAKING THE CODE: DISABILITY & GENETIC ENGINEERING
Bruce Gladwin - Kate Sulan

FROM MARALINGA & shy; BACK TO COUNTRY
Dr Archie Barton - Indigenous Elder TBC - Paul Brown - Alison Page - Lynette Wallworth

BLACKFELLA/WHITEFELLA & shy; TOEING THE LINE
Panel of artists and project managers

BOUNDARIES & BORDERS: REFUGEES,
MULTICULTURALISM AND DISSENT
Nikos Papastergiadis - Deborah Kelly - Jenna Stellato Pledger -
Eva Sallis

SENI UNTUK SENI; SENI UNTUK RAKYAT (Art for Art; Art
for the People)
Maria Alice Casimiro Branco - Rebecca Conroy - Susan Ditter -
Graham Pitts - East Timorese cultural activists

PROPAGANDA OF THE DEED: CULTURAL ACTIVISM
Nik Beuret - Aizura Hankin - Kylie Purr - Francesca daRimini

WHOSE FESTIVAL? CAN ARTS FESTIVALS EMBRACE
COMMUNITY CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT?
Teresa Crea - Jerril Rechter - Stephen Richardson - other
community voices

DEMOCRATISING CULTURE
Jon Hawkes - Helen Gould (Creative Exchange, UK)

SPEAKING FOR OURSELVES: DISSENT IN THE RANKS
Phillip Crawford - Martin Thiele - and voices from around
Australia

REVERSING THE FLOW & shy; ENABLING REGIONAL
VOICES

PERFORMING DISSENT

REPRESENTING DIFFERENCE: FROM FRINGE TO
MAINSTREAM
Panelists from Indigenous, multicultural, gay and lesbian and
disabilities communities

RADICAL BODIES

art of DISSENT



HOSTS



City of Melbourne



Cultural Development Network



Australia Council



Adelaide Festival of Arts



Melbourne Festival



Community Arts Network, SA

ORGANISERS

Anne Dunn
Robyn Archer
Sue Beal
Jane Crawley
Teresa Crea
Bernice Gerrand
Christian Haag
Donna Jackson
Sue Natrass
Bagryana Popov
Alex Reid
Judy Spokes
Julia Tymukas
Lynette Wallworth

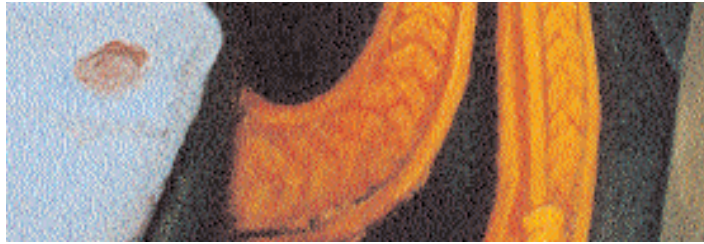
Chair
Melbourne International Festival 2002-03
Cultural Development Network (Vic)
City of Melbourne
Adelaide Festival 2002
Australia Council (CCDB)
Adelaide Festival 2002
Melbourne Festival nominee
Adelaide Festival 2002
Australia Council (CCDB)
Australia Council (CCDB)
Cultural Development Network (Vic)
Community Arts Network (SA)
Adelaide Festival 2002

Conference managed by COMMON GROUND CONFERENCES

Kevin Brennan
Diana Kalantzis
Bill Cope
Adriana Hassapis
Despina Scarano

Programming
Design and co-ordination
Co-ordination
Secretariat
Secretariat

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MELBOURNE FESTIVAL 2002

17 October - 2 November 2002

www.melbournefestival.com.au



The Melbourne Festival is Australia's premier annual celebration of the arts and has an outstanding reputation for presenting unique international and Australian attractions in the fields of dance, theatre, music, opera, visual arts, free and outdoor events over seventeen days each October.

The Artistic Director of the 2002 and 2003 Festivals is one of Australia's most respected and active arts practitioners, Robyn Archer. The Festival's General Manager is Mary-Ellen King



INSTALLATION ART BY GUO JIAN

'Jian's paintings angrily satirise the Maoist regime but his work raises questions of a more universal character, in particular, how governments and the media manipulate public opinion; and the social consequences of societies whose only moral value is the pursuit of money.'