MEDIA RELEASE
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Protest, propaganda and peoples’ politics

Flinders University City Gallery is set to host a landmark exhibition surveying the hard-hitting output of Therese Ritchie and Chips Mackinolty, pioneering figures in Australia’s political poster movement.

Satirically titled Not Dead Yet, the exhibition traces four decades of powerful and persuasive graphic art – from the original “hotbed” of protest art in the 1970s, the Tin Sheds at Sydney University, through to the present day.

Developed by Anita Angel, curator of the Charles Darwin University Art Collection and Art Gallery, the exhibition features screen prints, posters, drawings, photographs, digital collage works and limited edition fine art prints and paintings, a number of which are the result of a formidable creative and collaborative partnership between Ritchie and Mackinolty which has lasted for more than 30 years.

Bold and often humorous many of these works have served to “rally the troops” by exposing burning social and political issues – such as human rights, land rights, indigenous health, eco-politics, mining and policing – otherwise muted, misrepresented or simply ignored in the mainstream press.

“Working together, sideways and apart, [Ritchie and Mackinolty] have captured the lives, landscapes and major events that have defined the [Northern Territory] both as ‘home’ and as an enduring Australian frontier,” Ms Angel said.

“It is a place where the personal is political and life, like art, is only as honest as you are. Messages conveyed by their art travel well beyond the Northern Territory’s borders,” she said.

“Theyir work is steeped in local and regional experiences of a particular time and place, but it also gives rise to issues of national and international import. Like all great art, it resonates on many levels in a universal way.”

City Gallery Director, Fiona Salmon said “Not Dead Yet is a celebration of the individual talents and combined achievements of Ritchie and Mackinolty – both of whom are represented in the Flinders University art collection – which promises to pack a punch.”

“In the noisy world of mass media – of marketing, advertising and spin – the currency of this exhibition cannot be underestimated,” Ms Salmon said.

“Put simply, it demonstrates the ability of art to communicate, to convey messages and meanings in ways that make us sit up and listen.”

Not Dead Yet opens at Flinders University City Gallery at 6pm, Friday 3 May 2013 with guest speaker Rachael Hancock, General Manager, The Print Council of Australia Inc.

Chips Mackinolty and Therese Ritchie will be in conversation with Anita Angel, Saturday 4 May 2013 at 2pm.

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Flinders University City Gallery, State Library of South Australia, North Terrace, Adelaide
Opening hours: Tue - Fri 11 - 4, Sat & Sun 12 - 4    Exhibition dates: 4 May - 14 July 2013    www.flinders.edu.au/artmuseum