



Media Release

Embassy of Australia
Office of Public Affairs
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Embassy exhibition to showcase Australian love of art and travel

The Embassy of Australia will host “The Roving Eye”, an exploration of the influence of travel on Australian art, from 16 February to 30 March.

This innovative collection, which comes to Washington DC after a showing in New York City, features a diverse group of Australian artists, from up and coming to established.

As Australians, “The Roving Eye” artists are united by their cultural wanderlust. An impressive 60 per cent of Australia’s 20 million people have passports compared to only 20 per cent of Americans. Overseas travel is seen as a rite of passage for young Australians; many recent high school and college graduates will spend at least a year or two living and working abroad. And once they return, they settle into a multicultural melting pot. One in four Australian citizens was born abroad compared to one in 10 Americans.

The artists in the collection have long been influenced by their travel experiences and broad global perspective. “The Roving Eye” explores this influence through a variety of media, including sculpture, photography, video installation, oil painting and indigenous bark painting.

David Sequeira, a Canberra-based artist born in New Delhi, India, for example, is a frequent world traveller—often alone.

“Travel reminds me that I am part of something bigger than Canberra, or indeed Australia,” he explains. “Whilst Australia is a great place to live, it is somewhat disconnected from Europe, Asia and America. Of course, this distance is both its greatest strength and its greatest weakness.”

Sequeira, whose work includes painting, sculpture, installation, curatorship and writing, has lived and worked in Moenjodaro, Pakistan; Paris, France; and Dallas, Texas.

Aaron Seeto’s contributions to “The Roving Eye” were developed last year when he moved from New South Wales to New York City. He is now an artist-in-residence at the International Studio and Curatorial Program.

“I suppose my work and research centers on a consideration of shifting identity politics and living and making work in another city,” Seeto explains. “[This] forced

me to articulate and then reconsider the things that I thought were important and the things that I would normally take for granted.”

The exhibition includes “The Unseen”, Seeto’s striking compilation of gold-toned albumen photographic prints, silver plated spoons, wax and concave mirrors—all atop a simple wooden table.

“The Roving Eye” is a joint project of the Gigantic ArtSpace studio and Advance, a New York City-based group for Australian professionals overseas. It is sponsored by The Embassy of Australia, Washington DC; UBS Investment Bank; and Foster’s Wine Estates Americas.

The Exhibition

What: “The Roving Eye”
Who: Australian artists Lionel Bawden, Rodney Glick + Lynette Voevodin, Tina Gonsalves, Janaki Lennie, Max Pam, Lea Rekow, Aaron Seeto, David Sequeira, David Serisier, Darren Sylvester, Edwina White, Gulumbu Yunupingu
Where: Embassy of Australia
1601 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC
When: 16 February – 30 March 2007

*Media tours by appointment