

Walk

A NETS VICTORIA TOURING EXHIBITION

Peter Corbett Vicki Couzens Nicky Hepburn Brian Laurence Jan Learmonth Carmel Wallace Ilka White John Wolseley

Walk presents the work of eight Australian artists – Peter Corbett, Vicki Couzens, Nicky Hepburn, Brian Laurence, Jan Learmonth, Carmel Wallace, Ilka White and John Wolseley. At the heart of this exhibition is a 250 kilometre trek along the Great South West Walk, an increasingly endangered natural environment cradled in the far south-west corner of Victoria.

For three weeks, this seemingly diverse group of artists walked through forest and river, estuary and bay to create work in response to their experience of an ever-shifting environment. Caught in the movement of the landscape, the artists followed a path that took them far from the familiarity and isolation of the studio.

Curated by Martina Copley, *Walk* is a NETS Victoria touring exhibition that features around 40 works of contemporary art, craft, sound and video art. *Walk* reinstates a sense of empathy towards the natural world. It is a space in which to reflect on the fragile state of habitat and its increasing vulnerability. Art expressing its relation to land, this exhibition is an invitation to discover what new meanings we are making of this place – to figure our relationship to the land and understand how the connections between inhabitant and eco-system may be meaningfully re-established.

Copley said, “*Walk* is a body of work that resides as much in our imagination as it exists as a finished exhibition. There is a quiet, undemonstrative but convincing reality about the art works – a combination of the humility and imaginative sensitivity of the eight artists who walked together.

“Resonant with the life energy operating within that particular place, encountering these works is like pulling threads – leading us into the landscape,” Ms Copley explained.

Georgia Cribb, Director of National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Victoria said, “We work closely with curators and galleries to develop ambitious and stimulating exhibitions that foster the exchange of ideas and promote new works by a diverse range of artists.”

“*Walk* is a meaningful and engaging exhibition that will connect with regional communities an appeal to a wide audience,” Ms Cribb explained.

Walk is a NETS Victoria exhibition that will tour nationally from late 2007–2009. NETS Victoria is the peak body for visual arts touring in the state of Victoria and provides opportunities for regional communities to access and engage with the best contemporary art, craft and design. Further details, including fact sheets as well as interviews with the curator and artists, are available at: www.netsvictoria.org/walk.

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