

PRESS RELEASE

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MELBOURNE FIRST IN ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL VENUE FOR CONTEMPORARY
ART

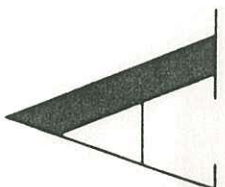
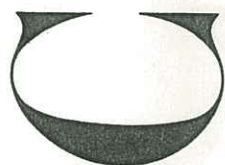
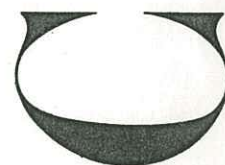
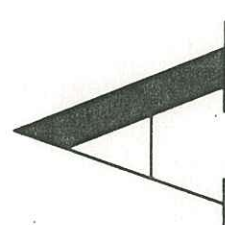
- A STEP TOWARD WIDER COMMUNITY AWARENESS....

A new Centre that will foster and develop awareness of contemporary art in Australia will be opened by the Minister for the Arts, The Hon. Race Mathews on Monday, 17th September at 6.00 p.m.

The Australian Centre for Contemporary Art will be the first public gallery in Australia to be devoted exclusively to contemporary art on a local, national and international basis and is seen as the first phase of a major institution for Melbourne.

The Centre is located in a Victorian house in Dallas Brooks Drive, the Domain, South Yarra and is surrounded by rose gardens, lawns and trees, with the Botanical Gardens a minute's walk away.

Director, John Buckley, sees the Centre's programme as giving definition and highlight to the increasingly cross-cultural stance of art in the '80's.



"The Centre will heighten community awareness and appreciation of contemporary art and therefore create an important base of support in Australia", says Mr Buckley.

"John Russell of the New York Times said recently : 'There is hardly a city of consequence in the developed world that does not now have a museum of modern art'. The timing would seem ripe for Melbourne to re-establish its prominence in the visual arts by being the first Australian city to establish an international venue dedicated to modern art."

The new Melbourne Centre will provide a venue for temporary exhibitions of painting, sculpture, installations and photography, embracing also areas of architecture, fashion, film, video and music.

The Centre will play an important educational role. Eventually it will provide the community with information, an audio-visual facility, public lectures, seminars and newsletters. Art lovers will have access to the latest art journals and magazines, as well as material which should

be of particular interest and benefit to students of the fine arts.

The Centre is funded by the Victorian Ministry for the Arts and the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council, but it is hoped that financial independence will be gained through substantial public and corporate support.

For the Centre's opening exhibition there is a special installation by Melbourne artist, Robert Jacks, who is described by Mr Buckley as "one of Australia's most eloquent abstractionists". Also on display will be sculptures by internationally known sculptor, Bill Woodrow and architectural drawings by British architect, Peter Cook.

Mr John Buckley and Chairman, Dr Thomas Quirk, will chair a press conference at the Centre on Monday, 17th September at 11.00 a.m.