

CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

for

CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART INAUGURAL PROJECT

LAUNCHES EMINENT NEW YORK PUBLIC ARTIST

Contemporary

16 February 1984

MELBOURNE'S NEWEST PUBLIC GALLERY

The Centre for Contemporary Art - Melbourne's newest public gallery - will open its doors to the public later this year.

Its programme and policy will be exclusively to do with Australian and international modern and contemporary art.

This exciting venture has been initiated by the Victorian Ministry for the Arts, and is also being generously assisted by the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council.

Until it finds a permanent home the Centre will be based temporarily in a modified Victorian house set in attractive gardens in Dallas Brooks Drive, South Yarra, within sight of St. Kilda and Domain Roads.

CENTRE ANNOUNCES FIRST PUBLIC PROJECT

The Centre's first public project will be the Australian visit of one of New York's newest and youngest artists and a favourite of the international media, Keith Haring.

Haring, aged twenty-five, became famous overnight through his work in New York subway stations. Using the strategy of a 'graffiti' artist, Haring found the black paper which covered expired advertisements to be ideal for his vibrant white chalk drawings of crawling babies, barking dogs, flying saucers and multiple figures. These images are all part of a personal hieroglyphic pictorial language, but are also images with which people can form their own associations.

More recently, Haring has computerized his images for the electronic billboard in Times Square, New York, designed the record cover and sleeve for rock entrepreneur, Malcolm McLaren's album 'Duck Rock', and has collaborated with some of the younger New York fashion designers.

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In his extraordinarily short career Haring has relentlessly pursued his passion for making art accessible to as many people as possible. This passion to go public with his work has radically altered the meaning of 'art in public places' and has inevitably made him a controversial figure in the art world.

UNIQUE PROJECTS FOR AUSTRALIAN VISIT

The Centre for Contemporary Art has arranged a series of exciting projects for this energetic artist which will place him and his art before the Australian public. Haring will be in Australia from February 18 until March 8, 1984.

In Melbourne, beginning February 20, Haring will paint the large entrance window of the National Gallery of Victoria. He will also be involved in a number of unusual events which will combine his interests in art, rock music, fashion design, film and video.

In Sydney early March, Haring will execute a large work inside the Art Gallery of New South Wales and possibly another work on the outside of that building.

These unique projects will be the subject of a documentary film to be made whilst Haring is in Australia.

Haring's Australian visit has been financially assisted by a generous grant from the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council.

ENQUIRIES

For further information please contact John Buckley, Director, Centre for Contemporary Art on (03) 241 5263 during the day and after hours.