

COPY FOR ARTICLE ON THE CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART FOR  
POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE "AGE" SUPPLEMENT ON THE ARTS IN  
MELBOURNE TO BE PUBLISHED ON 25.06.84.

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For those who remember the Museum of Modern Art, which was established in Melbourne by John and Sunday Reed in the late 1950's and sadly foundered some eighteen years ago and, indeed, for a whole new generation of art enthusiasts, there is welcome news.

Tucked away in the Domain on the edge of South Yarra is an attractive Victorian house surrounded by rose gardens, lawns and trees which is about to undergo the necessary modifications to transform it into the first stage of Melbourne's new Centre for Contemporary Art. -

It will not be before time. As John Russell said recently in the New York Times : "There is hardly a city of consequence in the developed world that does not now have, or want to have, a museum of modern art. Hardly a week passes - or so it seems - without a new annexe here, a new wing there, and a completely new building somewhere else."

How extraordinary, then, that after the Reeds' brave attempt twenty five years ago there is still no major visual arts institution in Australia which focuses exclusively on contemporary art.

Melbourne's new Centre will seek to fill that gap. It is to be a public gallery showing the work of both local and overseas artists not catered for at present by either the commercial galleries or public institutions.

It will provide a venue for temporary exhibitions of painting, sculpture, installations and photography, which it is hoped will stimulate innovative and neglected areas of the visual arts. Art in the eighties is becoming increasingly cross-cultural, embracing areas such as architecture, fashion, film, video and music and the Centre for Contemporary Art will be the place in Melbourne where this will be demonstrated.

The Centre will also have an educational role. It will provide services to the community such as an information area and library, an audio-visual facility, public lectures, seminars and newsletters. Via the Centre, the public will have access to the latest art journals and magazines, as well as to an archival collection. This should be of particular interest and benefit to students of the fine arts.

The Centre for Contemporary Art is being funded by both the Victorian Ministry for the Arts and the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council and it is hoped that some financial independence will be gained through the support of the general public and corporate bodies.

Long overdue, and with public support high, the timing would seem to be ripe for Melbourne to re-establish its prominence in the visual arts by being the first Australian city to establish an international venue for contemporary art.

For anyone seeking further information, the Director of the Centre for Contemporary Art, John Buckley, can be contacted at the Centre's temporary working address at 15 Jackson Street, Toorak (tel. 241 5263).