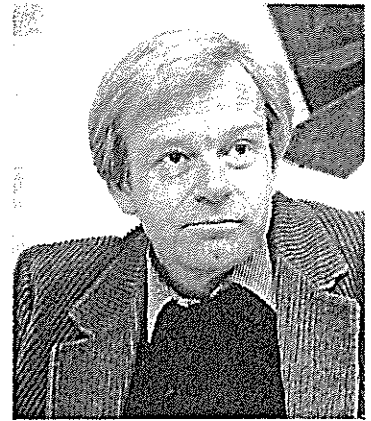


# Australian Centre for Contemporary Art

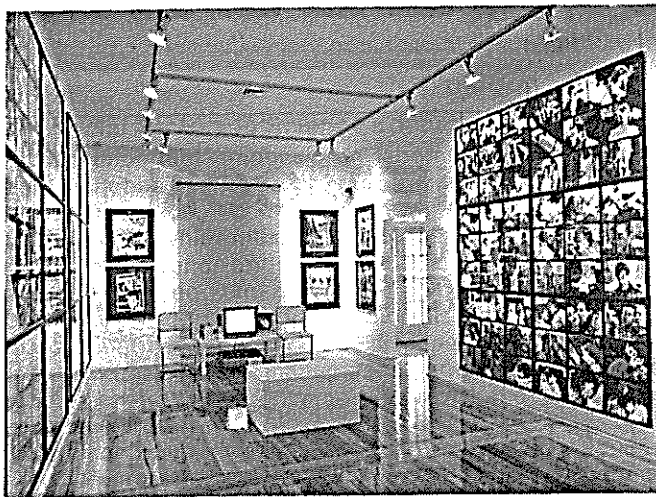
by Tim Fullerton



John Buckley  
Director

The birth of the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art in September, 1984 is a most important step in communicating art to a wider audience. When the promotion of art in public galleries remains largely in the domain of retrospectives, or art that was, it is refreshing to find a venue committed exclusively to art that is NOW.

Accessibly located in Dallas Brooks Drive opposite the Botanical Gardens in South Yarra, the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art is a "must" for the 1985 school calendar. Director John Buckley, himself an art teacher for some time, sees the Centre as having a vital educational role, intending for this purpose to provide an audio-visual facility, public lectures, seminars, newsletters and possibly meetings with exhibition artists.



Funded by the Victorian Ministry for the Arts and the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council and with expectations of eventual financial independence, the Centre aims to draw from a broad range of artists who define the "leading edge of things", not only from those working locally, but from around the Country and abroad. Students of art now have an opportunity of visiting one place to gain some understanding of contemporary art in Australia, from the art beehives of the world such as New York, London, Paris, Cologne, Dusseldorf, Berlin and Rome, as well as from Third World countries. So too the administration's broad definition of the word 'artist'; painting, sculpture, installations, film, music, video, fashion, architecture and performance are all to be staged at some time.

Exhibitions held so far are indicative of such an eclectic curatorial approach, the opening exhibition featuring an

installation by Melbourne artist Robert Jacks, sculptures by internationally known Bill Woodrow and architectural drawings by British architect Peter Cook. Earlier in the year we saw Keith Haring - graffiti artist, and a large exhibition of the late work of Phillip Guston (venue - National Gallery of Victoria) and more recently, Randelli - Robert Randell and Frank Bendinelli's audio-visual installation characterizing and capturing some of today's soap perceptions of love and other popism concerns. And until a few days ago, a satellite show of the Sculpture Triennial was held, called "Painters' Sculpture".

John Buckley and Ashley Crawford (Editor of Tension Magazine) will set the 1985 year off with the launch of an exhibition issue of the magazine entitled "Visual Tension", whereby works hung at the Centre form a programme edition of reproductions. Among the artists represented will be Mike Parr, Imants Tillers, Tony Clarke, John Nixon and Vivien Sharp-Lewitt. The show will run from 20th February until mid March when the Director, in conjunction with Robert Pearce, curates "2D 3D: Art Looks at Fashion Looks at Art". This cross-over between art mediums as well as between cultures is a deliberate reference made by the Centre to the interconnection of the arts in the 1980's.

This new gallery space occupies a Victorian house set amongst a garden full of rosebushes and shady trees - a curiously traditional environment for a museum of modern art. There are however designs already drafted for extensions to the house, and the possibility of moving to larger premises at a later date has not been ruled out.

Any growth will depend ultimately on the level of support and public use of the Centre. For more information, details of membership or bookings, ring (03) 63 6422.

