

UNIVERSAL PICTURES

1999 Melbourne International Biennial
Collaborating Country Projects
Canadian Pavillion

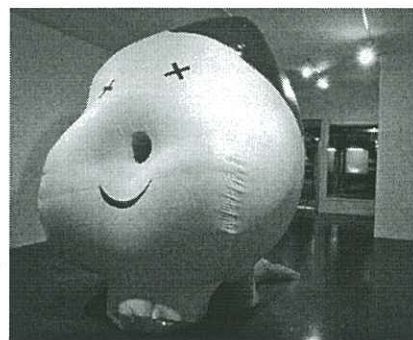
Exhibition Dates 11 May - 27 June 1999

One of the features of the inaugural Melbourne International Biennial is the series of 11 national pavilions which will run alongside the major central exhibition 'Signs of Life'. The pavilions utilise existing commercial and public galleries, to present the work of international artists. For the month of May, the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art goes Canadian, presenting the work of 3 artists: Geoffrey Farmer, Myfanwy MacLeod and Ron Terrada.

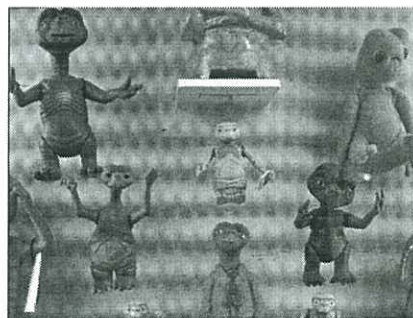
The exhibition called 'Universal Pictures' will comprise various media including painting, inflatable sculpture and installations. One of the works even features a pet cemetery in the gardens of ACCA! All of the artists are based in Vancouver which over recent years has risen to prominence in contemporary Canadian art as a vibrant scene for younger artists with an interest in popular culture.

The exhibition is curated by compatriot Kitty Scott. She notes that like Hollywood directors who play down actual locations within their films, "the artists in 'Universal Pictures' resist the striking urban landscape of Vancouver and the surrounding region that once seduced Jeff Wall, Ian Wallace, Rodney Graham and Ken Lum" and instead look to "television, movies and marketing culture". Scott says they're as likely to cite their influences as the Pilsbury Doughboy, Mel Gibson, Wayne Gretsky, Sailor Moon and 'Jeopardy' game-show host Alex Trebek!

To this end, Universal Pictures illustrates a universal tendency - as obvious in Australia as it is in Canada - in a vivid sense of the local is replaced by a vague sense of generic locations drawn from the realm of popular culture. As Scott wryly concludes of the tendency: 'Vancouver has slipped away, leaving in its wake a readymade North American anywhere'.



Myfanwy MacLeod, *My Idea of Fun*, 1997 (installation view)



Geoffrey Farmer, *Installation without a ship*, 1992 (detail)



Ron Terrada, *Untitled (Jeopardy Painting)*, 1998 (installation view)

Education Programs are available.
Please contact the Centre on tel 9654 6422



Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Dallas Brooks Drive, South Yarra 3141

Gallery Hours: Tues to Fri 11 - 5 Sat and Sun 12 - 5 acca@adm.monash.edu.au

ACCA is supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria - Department of Premier and Cabinet. ACCA is assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. Affiliated with Monash University.