



speed ... gravity ...
escape velocity ...

21 August to
3 October

**Rosemary
Laing**

aero-zone

'aero-zone' is an international cultural exchange exhibition between Monash University Gallery, Melbourne, and the National Museum of Art in Osaka, assisted by the City of Melbourne and Arts Victoria, featuring the work of renowned Australian artist Rosemary Laing.

One of only 5 finalists in the \$100,000 Contempora5 Visual Arts Prize, Laing's largescale photographs and video work contribute to a greater understanding of the universal themes of landscape, space and distance, which makes the work as relevant to Melbourne as it was to Osaka where it received widescale coverage and great acclaim.

To realise her work, Laing has collaborated with astro-physicists, landscape photographers, film stunt production and airline companies. Planes have even been rerouted at Sydney airport to provide Laing with her remarkable images!

'aero-zone' comprises selected works from three different series. Brownwork features photographs taken at Sydney airport often including events staged by Laing for the camera such as a javelin thrower or a rock climber or a girl playing ball; human activities set alongside – and in stark contrast – to the massive, global scale of air transit.

In Greenwork, Laing has worked with Sydney landscape photographer Peter Elliston digitising his photographs of lush green landscapes, stretching and blurring the pixels to emphasise the impact of technology on nature. One has to look through the patina of technological effects to register the subject matter.

A third work Spin – which was premiered in Osaka – will be on display concurrently at The Ian Potter Museum at The University of Melbourne from 16 September to 24 October as part of Contempora5 (in association with the National Gallery of Victoria). It is a video installation which presents footage taken from the wing of an aerobatic plane during its manoeuvres high above the Blue Mountains in New South Wales, plummeting and spinning in the air with disorienting effect.

Through Laing's work it's possible to rethink our conventional notions of space and time. They are not fixed categories as much as variable conditions which determine perception and understanding of the world around us.

'aero-zone' is an official event in Reaching the World, an international festival of Australian culture, the Third Olympic Arts Festival in the lead-up to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

