



Missionary zeal urges Sydney Art on Paper Fair to come of age!

Celebrating its 10th anniversary with a festival of paper in 2005, Sydney Art on Paper Fair (SAPF) embraces an expanding program with more exhibitors and associated exhibitions in a festival of art on paper – the *Paper Trail*.

Art on paper missionary - Akky van Ogtrop, Initiator and Director of SAPF, is a woman who has influenced the history of art on paper in Australia. As an art historian, art dealer, Dada specialist, art prize judge, chairwoman of Dutch Australian Cultural Centre, and board member of several organisations including the Print Council of Australia, Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Walter Burley Griffin Society, she has been persistent in her commitment to cultivate greater interest, enjoyment and interpretation of works of art on paper. SAPF is not only a shop front to sell international standard artworks on paper but also a forum to promote awareness of the many practices that artists use to create all kinds of art on paper.

SAPF is the only international art fair in Sydney and the only one of its kind in the Asia Pacific region.

Since its inauguration in 1989, the event has gradually established itself, as a significant player in Australia's art market, albeit until recent years only perhaps recognised by its devotees. This art fair continues the tradition of the specialised art fairs such as Master Drawings in London, the Print Fair in New York, Salon du Dessin in Paris, KunstKöln in Germany, and the Watercolours and Drawings Fair in London.

As a boutique-sized art fair attracting around 35 exhibitors every two years the fair has increasingly delivered substantial rewards for Australian artists, galleries and collectors. It prides itself in its friendly atmosphere, and its passionate specialism. Exhibitors at the SAPF 2003 were exuberant in their appreciation of the successful staging of the Fair as well as the dedication of its tiny staff. Comments from exhibitors:

"The art fair is excellent. Bravo! Every day there was a feeling of success and satisfaction."

"Great atmosphere! The Fair gets better every time!"

Other features of the Fair include the *FRESH* program which, over its 3 event history, has successfully supported the career development of more than 20 emerging artists and the comprehensive daily program of talks, tours and demonstrations. A one-day symposium is now traditionally held during each Fair to capitalize on the great wealth of expertise that congregates at the Fair and features international invited speakers.

Hedwich Fijen, Director of Manifesta, the European biennial, will speak at SAPF Symposium 2005. This will be a day of discussion around recurrent art events, their successes and their impact on cultural landscapes and local communities. Developments in 2004 include the establishment of SAPF as a 'not for profit' organisation and a new committee established.

SAPF exhibits and sells quality art on paper including photography, prints, drawings, watercolours, vintage posters and artists' books, accompanied by a broad program of talks, tours and demonstrations by artists, arts professionals and collectors. **Sydney Art on Paper Fair is registering exhibitors now.**

Sydney Art on Paper fair takes place:

28 – 31 July 2005; 11am to 8 pm (7 pm on Sunday); Byron Kennedy Hall, Moore Park, Sydney.

Admission: Full \$15, Concession \$12, Children under 16 free.

Gala Preview – Wednesday 27 July 2005, 6-9pm

Full details on the website www.sydneyartonpaperfair.com.au. (currently in reconstruction)

Sydney Art on Paper Fair is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, Audience and Market Development Division, Hulsbosch by Design, Eckersleys, Gallery One and IDsecure.

AKKY VAN OGTROP IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW.

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