



PRESS RELEASE

A mixed media art exhibition entitled ***Memory Works*** is being held at the Sydney Jewish Museum from 3 - 28 May 2002. The exhibition features work by Naomi Ullmann, Ede Horton and Catherine Chauchat.

All three artists have utilised different media to explore the themes of memory and the history of the Holocaust in insightful and challenging ways. Together the works speak about remembrance and reflect on openness, identity and collective memory.

Naomi Ullmann, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, explores the psychic and physical terrains of the Holocaust through her series of delicately painted and etched postcards. Her images link past to present and reflect upon symbols, family connections, places and objects of the Holocaust. Ullmann is an accomplished young artist whose work is received as a thought-provoking response to the Jewish experience.

Ede Horton has produced a collection of miniature cast glass sculptures reflecting a historical narrative about change and consistency through the generations. Her works are tangible objects about the intangible – migration, silence, loss and change. Horton is also the daughter of Holocaust survivors, and her work as an artist is the result of her search for self-definition within the context of familial and collective memory.

A documentary film by Catherine Chauchat explores the contributions made to the Sydney Jewish Museum by its volunteer guides, and the important function of the Museum in educating about the Holocaust. We discover the volunteers in their homes and at the Museum, their motivation for speaking out and breaking the silence, and their healing processes. The film will be screened within the exhibition, and in the Museum's theatre.

Memory Works is the first contemporary art exhibition to be shown by the Sydney Jewish Museum. The opportunity to present the works by three Australian artists is significant at a time when the interpretation of Holocaust history by the second generation in various media is striking a cord with the public.

The exhibition will be opened by Dr Faith Bandler AO, author and campaigner for rights for Indigenous Australians. Dr Bandler is recognised as a forceful power within the advancement of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cause, and in 1967 was a director of the NSW referendum campaign, which was instrumental in gaining equal citizenship for Aborigines under the Australian Constitution. Her writings reflect the importance of remembrance and ensure that Aboriginal memories are preserved for the future.

'Memory has a curious quality. It exists always in the present, yet refers to a time before'

Professor Andrew Jakubowicz

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