



THIS IS THAT

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"THAT Contemporary Art Space" is an independently funded, non-profit-making artist run space (gallery and studios) in Brisbane City.

The grand opening on June 25, 1985 was very well attended by artists, gallery goers and the general public. The resounding success of this occasion has followed through with a high number of gallery visitors each day and large crowds on opening nights.

THAT evolved from the need for young local artists to have a gallery environment that was sympathetic to more innovative, provocative and experimental approaches in art practise and an organisation that was not motivated by commercial concerns. THAT is the realisation of this need and has now operated for six months.

One large gallery space (approximately 1000 square feet) has been administered by THAT collective, a group of thirty artists who are represented in this show. This survey includes the artists who have exhibited in our gallery during the first six months of operation and also represents the artists who occupy the studio space on our top floor.

THAT collective represents a wide diversity of concerns in the visual arts and has a policy of exhibiting work that embraces this diversity. THAT seeks out work of a very contemporary nature that is produced by professionally minded artists and THAT maintains a reasonable standard of quality for young art practice.

THAT is a project which has involved a large number of people from various arenas and it is this factor which has contributed to the very popular opening nights and gallery attendances. Moreover, the artists involved in the project have a genuine and committed approach to the promotion and exposure of young contemporary art practise in Queensland and interstate. Specifically, the artists of THAT space have maintained the running of this venture.

Unfortunately continued success is threatened by the prospective army of jackhammers and bulldozers and THAT will probably close its doors in 1986.

THAT has witnessed a considerable upsurge of interest in young contemporary art, an increased rapport with other local artists and has promoted an increased awareness of local and national art practise. All these factors have been facilitated by the centrality of THAT's location in Brisbane and its unique status as the only artist-run contemporary space in Brisbane.

One Flat Gallery, West End and George Street branches, The Redcombe House Project and A Room (all now terminated) have been important motivators of this upsurge. Moreover, the recently opened Observatory

Gallery follows a similar line to THAT and its precursors. The Observatory is an artist-run space that is particularly supportive of the local art colleges. Together with THAT, Brisbane now has a regular series of exhibitions of local artists.

This upsurge of interest has not only been a local phenomenon, it has reached provincial areas and quite markedly. THAT Gallery's second show was by two Central Queensland artists, Jo Williams and Ellie Nielsen, curated by Dianne Heenan. This exhibition helped draw the country areas a little closer to Brisbane. "This is THAT" exhibition will increase this breakdown of barriers and hopefully stimulate provincial concerns.

Notwithstanding the eventual termination of our operation, the appearance/disappearance phenomenon does not and will not thwart the local scene and reappearance is always an inevitability.

As co-ordinator of THAT and curator of this survey show, I have realized a considerable sense of satisfaction from being so closely associated with so many like-minded and committed individuals. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Dianne Heenan and the Gladstone City Council who have made this exhibition possible, to John Waller for his earnest and uncompromising efforts to help establish THAT, to Jay Younger for her invaluable assistance and to the Institute of Modern Art for their support and encouragement.

Paul Andrew

Co-ordinator

THAT Contemporary Art Space.

ARTISTS REPRESENTED IN "THIS IS THAT"

Those who have exhibited in THAT Gallery

Adam Boyd
Jargonelle Noyce Hurst
Zeliko Maric
Paul Andrew
Jay Younger
John Waller
Brian Doherty
Rebecca Chapman
Sally Hart
Jenny Chirnside
John Douglas
Sue Ryan

Maria Philoppow
Wayne Smith
Jo Williams
Ellie Nielsen
Claudje Lecompte
Gavin Fenelon

Those who work in THAT studios

Robert Kinder
Paul Milburn
Sue Palmer
Lindy Collins
Dale Chapman
Jenny Lawrence

Artists involved with THAT but not represented in "This is THAT"

Russell Lake
Mark Webb
Christopher McKimm
Hollie