

MEDIA RELEASE

LITTLE ARTISTS HIT THE BIG TIME



NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR, **BIG ONES LITTLE ONES** IS A GROUP EXHIBITION LIKE NO OTHER IN THE ART WORLD. IT SHOWCASES PAINTINGS BY INDIGENOUS ARTISTS AS YOUNG AS SIX, FROM SCHOOLS IN URBAN, RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES IN AUSTRALIA, INCLUDING TORRES STRAIT AND PALM ISLAND, AS WELL AS EAST TIMOR, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND NEW ZEALAND. **BIG ONES LITTLE ONES** OPENS JULY 11 AND RUNS FOR THREE WEEKS AT BOOMALLI ABORIGINAL ARTISTS' CO-OP GALLERY IN LEICHHARDT.

A selection of the children's works will then be displayed on the Reconciliation Wall at Parliament House in Sydney, from August for two months. Founder Trish Amichi from Gallery Amichi, has worked tirelessly for the last three years to coordinate this event and is excited about the new show. "Many of these kids are so used to seeing and hearing negative stories about themselves on TV and the news. This is not a story about welfare or alcohol abuse. It is an uplifting story. This project is about promoting self-esteem through positive interaction and acceptance."

Gallery Amichi has been invited to launch the 2007 exhibition in its entirety at Parliament House. This year's exhibition has been placed as a Calendar Event for delegates attending the 2006 International Democratic Education Conference, one of whose major platforms is to investigate progressive approaches to education.

Several of the participating artists have experienced great adversity; for example, the recent cyclones or floods in northern Australia, or the political turmoil and civil unrest in the Solomon Islands. An exhibition such as Big Ones Little Ones, supported by communities around Australia, not only reveals the sensitivity and talent of these young individuals but also allows the general population access to their work.

Encouraging literacy skills is an essential part of the project. Paintings have to be accompanied by a title and, where possible, a story, linking the art to the exhibition theme, 'Connecting communities'. Big Ones Little Ones, anchored as always in Australia's own Indigenous cultures, has been extended this year to include students with special needs from Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates and students from St Lucy's School in Wahroonga.

While it appears the establishment is giving this project due consideration, it is still very much a grass-roots enterprise. Its survival is ensured only by the goodwill of supporters. For instance, Euraba Paper Aboriginal Corporation, based in Boggabilla, northern NSW, supplied all participating artists, Big and Small, with special handmade paper for their paintings. Others involved include those who transport materials by hand to kids in far-flung communities.

The Little Ones are supported by the Big Ones, established and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists from across the country, who exhibit their work alongside the children's. Anyone who views this exhibition will be both inspired and uplifted by the experience.

LITTLE ONES PLAYING A BIG ROLE IN CONNECTING COMMUNITIES



BIG ONES LITTLE ONES 2006 OPENS ON JULY 11 AT BOOMALLI 55-59 FLOOD STREET, LEICHHARDT AND MOVES TO PARLIAMENT HOUSE ON AUGUST 1 FOR TWO MONTHS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, IMAGES OR TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW PLEASE CONTACT LOUISE LYNCH AT CLUB COMMUNICATIONS ON (02) 9360 0300 OR EMAIL: CLUBCOMMUNICATIONS@BIGPOND.COM

[home](#)