

**HOW EXCELLENTLY WE DID-DIDDILLY-DO-DO DO IT
JUSTINE KHAMARA**

How Excellently We Did-diddilly-do-do Do It is a new installation by Melbourne artist Justine Khamara in the Kerry Gardner & Andrew Myer Project Gallery at Heide Museum of Modern Art, 23 June – 28 October 2007.

Justine Khamara uses photography as the basis for her unique three-dimensional collages. In this new work, thousands of photographic details of body parts have been painstakingly cut out by hand and reassembled to create freestanding forms that combine elements of Eastern religious symbolism, popular culture, and Western art history in both unsettling and comical ways.

The inspiration for this work began with Michelangelo's iconic ceiling fresco in the Sistine Chapel, in which God reaches out to Adam to bestow life on humankind. Advances in visual technologies have liberated these two hands from their original context. This fragment has spread across the globe, instantly recognisable to millions of people who may never have seen a reproduction of the whole work. Using Michelangelo's imagery as a starting point, there are many ideas that Khamara seeks to engage with in this project: millennial anxieties in an over-populated world; documentation and representation of the figure; portraiture; and an attempt to marry (visually) aspects of religion and science.

The title, *How Excellently We Did diddilly-do-do Do It*, combines the speech pattern of a character from *The Simpsons*, the evangelical Ned Flanders, with a line from a translation of an Eastern religious text, 'How excellently we did spread'. This text describes another moment of creation, when sky and land are separated and living things begin to spread out into the world. For Khamara, this translation perfectly describes a sense of multiplication, of duplication and unstoppable reproduction (both biological and technological), that is an important aspect of this new work.

'My practice', says Khamara, 'emerges out of an interest in the way technology today gives us an unprecedented capacity to create and replicate images, and how this can affect the way in which we use and understand the photograph as an object in its own right, as well as the relationship between an image and the photographic subject'.

This is the fourth installation to be presented in the Project Gallery, a space dedicated to showcasing new and innovative art practice. The Project Gallery supports emerging artists, many of whom are exhibiting in a public gallery for the first time, providing them with the opportunity to create a new work.

Justine Khamara is available for interview.

How Excellently We Did-diddilly-do-do Do It
Justine Khamara
23 June – 28 October 2007
Heide III: Kerry Gardner & Andrew Myer Project Gallery

Associated Heide Public Programs:

Sunday 24 June 2007, 2.00pm

Artists in conversation: *How Excellently We Did-diddilly-do-do Do It*

Justine Khamara discusses her work with writer and researcher Dr Melissa Miles and artist Steven Rendall

Tickets: FREE with admission

Thursday 4 October 2007, 10.00am – 1.00pm

School Holiday Activities: Cut and paste up

Learn collage with artist Justine Khamara

Tickets: \$25, Heide Member / Concession \$20

Heide Museum of Modern Art

7 Templestowe Road

Bulleen Victoria 3105 Australia

T 03 9850 1500

www.heide.com.au

Tue-Fri 10.00am – 5.00pm; Sat/Sun/Public Holidays 12.00noon – 5.00pm

Admission: Adult \$12, Senior \$10, Concession \$8; Gardens: free

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