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ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA

BOLD ENIGMAS

Thursday 13 March - Saturday 19 April 2008

Works from the Sidney Myer Fund Permanent Collection Curated by Dr. Cheryl Daye

Bold Enigmas

13 March 2008 - 19 April 2008 APA Gallery 24 High Street Northcote VIC 3070

Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 10am-1pm

Opening Night: Wednesday 12 March 2008 from 6-8pm





Bill Griffiths (Volkswagon) c. 1970 Oil pastel and poster paint 38x56cm

Tommy Risler (powerlines) c. 1970 Felt tip pen 45.5x61.5cm

In her selection of fifty eight works for Bold Enigmas, Dr Cheryl Daye captures glimpses of individual worlds and ways of seeing by people who generally did not regard themselves as artists but were nonetheless driven to engage in intense visual expression. There is a sense of urgency in many of these works, a drive to record experience through repetition and symbolic imagery reminiscent of hieroglyphs, maps, and figurative markers.

These rarely seen works from an historic collection were selected not only for the singularity of each artist's idiom, but also for the insight they provide into what so excited and inspired the founders of Arts Project Australia (APA) more than 30 years ago.

Representing over 400 drawings and paintings collected from various institutions and day centres in Victoria, interstate and overseas between 1974 and 1983, the Sidney Myer Fund Permanent Collection consists mainly of works which were collected and exhibited as part of two seminal shows - Minus/Plus (1975) and Tommy's World (1980). If it were not for the sensitive appreciation and fearless drive of the founders of APA these works would not have survived; they would be lost forever - discarded as eccentric doodlings by people for whom the potential to contribute to society was simply unrecognised.

As Dr Daye says, 'We are indebted to these artists for providing such a rich and enduring legacy, a source of lasting wonder and inspiration.'

Dr Cheryl Daye was Founding Director of Arts Project Australia through the years 1986 to 2004.



Shirley Warke Not Titled (Dog) Crayon 21.5x31cm



Don Young (Easter and Flying Buses) c. 1980 Poster Paint 51x75cm



David Coles Not Titled c. 1975 Biro 17.5x14.5cm

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