

**'We hope to attract both serious and new collectors'**

Mr Allan Teo of Momentous Arts on the fresh range in Art & About, such as Brad Munro's abstract painting, Graceland Revisited (right)

# Different strokes Down Under

Australia unveils the many-splendoured works of its modern artists in a show that goes beyond popular Aboriginal art

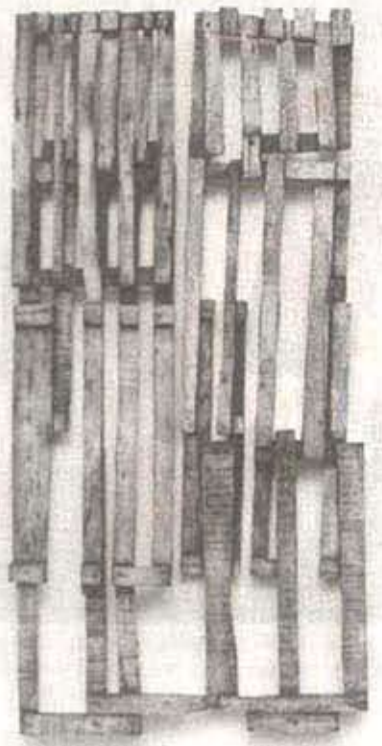
June Cheong  
ARTS REPORTER

**A**USTRALIAN art is not just about Aboriginal art. To highlight other styles flourishing in the contemporary Australian art scene, the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) has organised an art festival here which runs from today till May 12.

Called Art & About, the inaugural festival comprises an art gallery hop where art lovers can wander through four galleries in different locations.

Featuring 17 contemporary artists, the four galleries are: Momentous Arts, off Boat Quay, ReDot Gallery in Everton Road, Ode To Art in Raffles City Shopping Centre and Taksu (Singapore) in Jalan Merah Saga.

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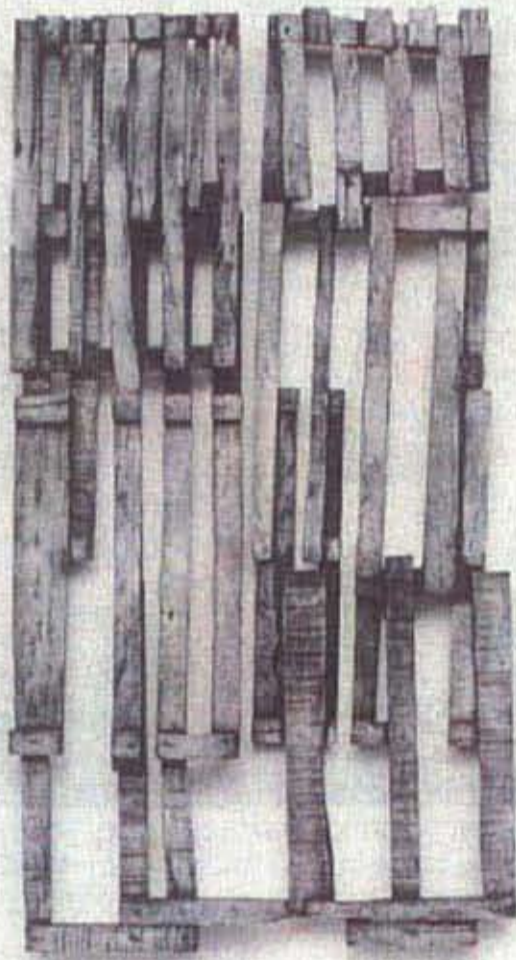
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**FACETS:** Contrasts in approaches can be seen here in Kendall Perkin's painting *Masquerade* (above) and Tony Twigg's *5 Fish Boxes In Pairs* (left). Perkin's style involves vibrant, uplifting colour while Twigg's is edgier.

missioner of Austrade, an Australian government agency that helps Australian companies abroad, says: "We hope the festival will enhance Singaporeans' appreciation of Australian contemporary art with Singaporeans not having to leave home to 'visit Australia'."

Mr Giorgio Pilla, 37, owner of ReDot Gallery which focuses on Australian Aboriginal art, says Aboriginal art is just one section of Australian art.

"It's been the one gaining the most attention as prices have gone up so much in recent years," he says.

Among the 17 artists showcased are abstract painters Jane McKay and Brad Munro, Aboriginal artist Mawukura Jimmy Nerrimah and multimedia artist Tony Twigg.

Art & About's concept is similar to last year's Singapore Biennale, which showcased 198 international artworks across 19 venues, albeit on a much smaller scale.

Austrade hopes to make the festival a yearly event. Last weekend, it even provided a free shuttle bus service which covered the routes between the four galleries.

The event is inspired by a similar festival in Hong Kong, which was organised by Austrade's Hong Kong office two years ago and featured more than 40 Australian artists.

Mr Allan Teo of Momentous Arts gallery says: "The works in this exhibition focus on the techniques of painting. We hope to attract both serious and new collectors."

➤ Art & About runs from today till May 12 at Momentous Arts Gallery, 20 Lorong Telok (tel: 6535-3961); Ode To Art, 01-36E/F Raffles City Shopping Centre, (tel: 6250-1901); ReDot Gallery, 11 Everton Road (tel: 6222-1039); and Taksu (Singapore), Block 43, 02-74, Mediatheque, 100 Upper Macao Road, Singapore.