

IMAGES INTERIOR:

Michael Bell

Welcome to China
linocut, 2010 (detail)

**Catherine Croll
(and the University Chamber Choir)**

China Song,
photomedia, 2010 (detail)

Jen Denzin

Dear Henry, wish you were here... Liza
installation of red buckets, 2010 (detail)

Anne Graham and Allan Chawner

Contracted Memories
photography, interviews and assemblages,
installation and documentation, 2010 (detail)

Dermod Kavanagh

Friendship and Harmony:
Australian/Chinese Connection through song
slideshow projection, 2010 (still detail)

Claire Martin

Walking In Dazui
acrylic on canvas, 2010 (detail)

Pamela See

*He said that he only wanted to
take some pictures*
paper, 2010 (detail)

Johanna Trainor

Construction Beijing 2009
digital inkjet print, 2009

IMAGE FRONT: **Catherine Croll**

Chinese Buddha, digital photograph, 2010

Pamela See is represented by Andrew Baker
Art Dealer – www.andrew-baker.com

In July 2010, the University of Newcastle Chamber Choir made its first concert tour to China. The Choir gave concerts in Beijing, Wuhan and Shanghai and took part in its first international competition in the World Choir Games in Shaoxing.

Well known Newcastle photo-artist and arts co-ordinator Catherine Croll accompanied the Choir throughout its tour, recording the words, images and responses of Choir members. Dermod Kavanagh, as a member of the Choir and also a practising photographer, collaborated with Catherine to document the experiences of the choir through China. *China Song* features works that depict the experience of China - its people, sights, sounds, tastes and smells.

Many of the artists represented in the exhibition *China Song* have been artists in residence at the Red Gate International Residency Studios which are situated in an urban village on the outskirts of Beijing in Bei Gao, north east of the Metropolitan area. The responses of artists Michael Bell, Claire Martin, Johanna Trainor, Anne Graham and Allan Chawner reflect Beijing as a changing city, as its dramatic economic and physical transformations create a dynamic and exciting landscape.

Other artists in *China Song* include Pamela See, a Chinese-Australian contemporary artist who uses traditional paper-cutting techniques and Jen Denzin, an Australian artist who lived and worked in China for many years and for whom China continues to have a profound influence.



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OPEN Wednesday – Saturday 12 noon – 6pm or by appointment



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

Catherine Croll

with the University Chamber Choir

Pamela See

Michael Bell

Claire Martin

Dermod Kavanagh

Johanna Trainor

Jen Denzin

Anne Graham
and Allan Chawner

China
Song

An exhibition to celebrate
Jasmine and Wattle, the launch of
the University of Newcastle
Chamber Choir recordings in China

Exhibition Dates

24 NOVEMBER – 11 DECEMBER 2010

THE UNIVERSITY
GALLERY

China Song

Michael Bell

Michael Bell has been painting and making art works for 30 years. He has held 16 solo exhibitions and has participated in many group shows including the Archibald and Sulman Prizes held at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

The recipient of the AGNSW studio in Paris in 2007 and a residency at Taronga Zoo in 2009, Michael is represented in the collection of the Australian National Gallery, Canberra.

In 2009 he worked in China as an artist in residence at the Red Gate International Residency Studios with fellow Newcastle artist Claire Martin.

Michael Bell is also the winner of the 2010 Cricket Art Prize.



Catherine Croll

with the University Chamber Choir

For over 20 years Catherine Croll has been a practitioner involved in Community Cultural Development and Planning, as a facilitator and trainer.

In 2009 Croll took up the position of Director of Special Projects at the Red Gate Gallery in Beijing. This followed a six month stint as Director of the Red Gate Gallery International Artist Residency Program – Red Gate AIR.

Accompanying the University of Newcastle Chamber Choir on their tour of China, Croll documented and shared with them many incredible experiences.

Jen Denzin

In Denzin's current work she investigates a residual 'Asian' aesthetic embedded in our visual culture through the mapping of historical and more specifically, visual connections between China and Australia. For example, the Spode willow plate, jade (or money) trees and rotundas are common denominators which connect both cultures.

Until recently little scholarship has addressed the influence of early Chinese migrants on small Australian townships and

urban centres, yet there is an enduring Chinese population dating back to pre-goldrush transmigration.

Denzin's work is also an imaginary navigation of the silent spaces in Australia's early history regarding Chinese migrants. It visits spaces in our local history and local areas - as Newcastle's west end was once a Chinatown of sorts.



Anne Graham and Allan Chawner

Anne Graham and Allan Chawner are leading Australian artists and academics from the School of Drama, Fine Art and Music. Both have been exhibiting internationally since the mid 1970s and they have worked with many communities throughout the world where they develop collaborative visual responses to these various environments; these works are intended to enhance communities sense of ownership of place or history. Their photographic and sculptural installations provide a platform for community engagement and interaction and those on exhibition for China Song are part of a collaboration they undertook in China in the first half of 2010.



Dermod Kavanagh

Dermod Kavanagh is an Honours graduate from the University of Newcastle in 2009, an artist and also a member of the University of Newcastle Chamber Choir. While touring China, Kavanagh compiled a photo-documentary of the Choir's experiences. This journey is presented as a slide series for *China Song* and its title *Friendship and Harmony: Australian/Chinese Connection through song* reflects the essence of the tour.

Kavanagh was selected to represent the University of Newcastle at the prestigious 'Hatched: 2010: National Graduate Show' Exhibition at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Art (PICA) - a national survey of recent graduate artists from across Australia.

Kavanagh collated the images and text for *China Song*.



Claire Martin

An artist and teacher, Claire Martin lives and practices in Newcastle. This year she has been awarded the prestigious Calleen Art Award was a finalist in the Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing.

Martin worked in China with partner Michael Bell as an artist in residence at Red Gate studios in 2009. The surface and landscape of the village where they stayed and the moments experienced while there, have significantly informed the texture of works exhibited such as *Dismantling Huang Je Ping*.



Pamela See

Pamela See is an Australian artist of Chinese descent whose practice features a contemporary form of the traditional art of papercutting.

A graduate of Queensland College of Art in 1999, See has exhibited in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

In 2007, she made her first appearance in the Beijing art scene, featuring in exhibitions at 798 Red Gate Gallery, NY Arts and the Pickled Art Centre.

Between 2005 and 2008, See's work toured as part of Museum



of Brisbane's *Echoes of Home: Memory and Mobility in Recent Austral-Asian Art*.

See was Artist in Residence at the Lockup Cultural Centre in Newcastle during 2009.

Johanna Trainor

Johanna Trainor was an artist in residence at the Red Gate Art Gallery in August/September 2009.

In the short time that she lived in the village, buildings mushroomed weekly, as did 2nd story additions and courtyard enclosures. Stacks of bricks, piles of sand and building materials blocked the narrow streets. Finding locations to photograph with a clear view devoid of bodies or vehicles passing across her frame was virtually impossible.

Trainor's photographs express the palpable transformation of everyday life, the energy and urgency of Beijing evolving into a modern city.

