

## ANTIPODES

*A Visual Arts Research Project developed by Professor Tom Arthur of the Sydney College of the Arts (SCA), The University of Sydney and Professor Anne Rochette of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts (ENSBA), Paris*

Antipodes. What does this word mean today? This word, which for over two hundred years was paramount in the imagination of explorers and travellers and synonymous with the often “unreal” manifestations related by those whose accounts were to become recorded as being the “objective” experiences linking Australia to France.

Professor Anne Rochette and five students from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris arrived at SCA for a one month stay in April 2005, thus beginning a year long research project with Professor Tom Arthur and five postgraduate research students from SCA's Sculpture, Performance and Installation studio examining various cross-cultural relationships between art; its institutions and their relationship to specific regional and global histories, geography and politics.

The project was structured around notions of displacement that have been integral to the conceptualising of both the physical and cultural spaces associated with the term Antipodes. The focus of the project was primarily on art practices that are essentially linked to volume, space and installation, with specific interests in New Media. From an organisational perspective and pedagogically, the groups functioned as seminar and studio based “creative cells” working collaboratively to produce two joint exhibitions with linked publications in both Sydney and in Paris.

The works produced during the first phase of the project were exhibited in SCA's Galleries 1 and 2, marking a temporary resting point at the end of the beginning chapter of this year-long project. From out of this concentrated activity came newer understandings of the personal, cultural, historical and material parameters that each artist would bring to the project. This was clearly evidenced in the variety and in the intensity of the works in the exhibition.



It is now one year later and Tom Arthur and the students from SCA travel to Paris to reconnect with their Parisian counterparts during the months of April and May to complete the final stage of Antipodes with an exhibition at Point Ephémère, an exhibition space situated on the Canal Saint Martin.

The artists in the project from ENSBA are Clelia Bailey, Maia Jancovici, Sophie Truant, Julien Dubussion and Rafael Siboni and from SCA, Cecelia Hyunh, Helen Pynor, Nic Folland, Marley Dawson and Claude Jones with Kenzee Patterson replacing Nic Folland from the original group in Paris.

The project was made possible by the generous support and encouragement of the University of Sydney's International Development Fund, the French Embassy in Australia, the Australia France Foundation at the Australian Embassy in Paris, Sydney College of the Arts, The University of Sydney and the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts, Paris.

Tom Arthur  
March 2006

(above) Professor Tom Arthur and Professor Anne Rochette with the Antipodes artists, SCA Galleries, May 2005.