



Colin Holt, *Portrait of the Artists as Old Logs*, 2010

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Not Dead Yet: Therese Ritchie and Chips Mackinolty – a retrospective exhibition

The Charles Darwin University Art Collection and Art Gallery will launch a landmark retrospective exhibition for the Northern Territory on Wednesday 11 August: a survey show of 160 art works by Darwin-based artists Therese Ritchie and Chips Mackinolty. Curated by CDU Art Collection and Art Gallery Curator Anita Angel, *Not Dead Yet* features a comprehensive range of screenprints, posters, drawings, photographs, digital collage works and limited edition fine art prints and paintings, dating from 1969 (Mackinolty) and 1988 (Ritchie), through to the present day.

Arriving in the Northern Territory in the early 1980s, Ritchie and Mackinolty are pioneers of “alternative” printmaking in the region – a powerful and persuasive graphic art of protest, propaganda and people’s politics. For more than three decades, working “together, sideways and apart”, they captured the lives, landscapes and major events that have defined the Northern Territory both as “home” and as an enduring Australian frontier.

Not Dead Yet revisits the Darwin studios of the Werehaus Artists’ Collective in the 1980s, Green Ant Research Arts and Publishing in the 1990s and the original “hotbed” of protest art in the 1970s – the Tin Sheds at Sydney University. Drawn from a corpus of eight earlier exhibitions, and a large body of art created in more than four decades, this exhibition includes many works shown in the Northern Territory – or Australia – for the first time.

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Both artists have a connection to Charles Darwin University. Ritchie is a graduate and post-graduate of the CDU Art School, and a former lecturer in graphic design. Mackinolty also lectured at the University (in the former Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies), was media-coordinator for the *Vincent Lingiari Memorial Lectures*, and a guest lecturer for Art School. Ritchie's *Ship of Fools* (2004) was a seminal Northern Territory publication accompanying the exhibition that together comprised her Masters by Research at CDU. Mackinolty was a leading essayist in *Printabout* – the catalogue for the first ever touring exhibition in the Territory and interstate by Artback NT and the University Art Collection, working in partnership with the School of Art. In 1999, Ritchie's and Mackinolty's creative enterprise, Green Ant Research Arts and Publishing, designed the University Art Collection's 10th anniversary exhibition catalogue in 1999 – *Art and Place*.

Showing works selected from the University's permanent Art Collection, as well as those drawn from institutional and private collections in Darwin and interstate, *Not Dead Yet* also traces developments and techniques in traditional printmaking, collage and photographic media – from hand-drawn images, photographic or hand-cut stencils and rubyliths, to photographic prints and computer-generated digital prints on paper and canvas.

Not Dead Yet highlights the best of a collaborative and creative partnership by two Territory-inspired, contemporary Australian artists, whose individual talent and combined commitment have given voice and visual form to a Territory that many would otherwise never, never know.

This is the artists' first major combined exhibition at a public gallery in Australia, and the first focus survey of prints, posters and photographs in this category mounted in the Northern Territory.

The exhibition will be opened by **Dr John Ah Kit** on Wednesday 11 August 2010, Charles Darwin University Art Gallery, Chancellery, **Building Orange 12.1.02**. A special edition 72 page colour catalogue designed by the artists will be released for sale on opening night.

Not Dead Yet runs from **Thursday 12 August until Thursday 30 September 2010**.

The artists will provide two exhibition floor talks in the CDU Art Gallery: on **Friday 13 August at 10am** and **Saturday 21 August at 11am**. They will also deliver a floor talk for the School of Creative Arts and Humanities' Art Forum on **Wednesday 25 August, between 12-1pm**.

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