



BELCONNEN ARTS CENTRE

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MEDIA RELEASE

3 September 2009

Exhibition opening and book launch: *Cycles: The Revolution of the Chrysalis*

Time: 6pm, Friday 11 September

By: Anni Doyle Wawrzynczak – Curator

Augusto Tamayo-del-Solar – Lecturer of Spanish, University of Canberra

Artists: Oscar del Pozo, Celia Gallardo, Ian Haynes, Chun-chiang Shih, Rosemary von Behrens

Writers: Antonio Arjonilla, Carmen Castelo, Ricardo Gallardo, Pollux Hernández, Sergio Holas, Daniel Martin and Antonio Moreno-Lagar

Belconnen Arts Centre, the ACT's exquisite new arts facility, launches the next exhibition in its Spring Program on Friday 11 September with *Cycles: The Revolution of the Chrysalis*, from the culturally diverse, Belconnen-based **Encuentro Artists' Group**. Created in 1999, Encuentro aims to draw together artists of Spanish-speaking backgrounds and those interested in Spanish Latin-American culture, creating opportunities to convey the richness of these cultures to the wider community. This event is the culmination of a multicultural community project exploring the themes of migration, memory and the environment – natural or constructed, psychological or political.

The seven writers of the Encuentro Group have produced a robust collection of short stories and reflections in Spanish and English. This 200-page book is generously illustrated in colour featuring works also appearing in the exhibition.

Mr **Ricardo Gallardo**, one of Encuentro's writers said: "The stories and poems in this book, supported by works of art, explore changes within us, our cultures and our environment. Beginning as ideas, they have metamorphosed into this book and publication".

Each of the five visual artists offers a unique perspective on the subject matter. Oscar del Pozo's paintings are redolent with deep layers of transformation in the natural world through death and rebirth. Celia Gallardo's drawings and ceramic work express the need for metamorphosis in the consciousness of human kind. Ian Haynes' photographs explore abstract representations of textures and colour hidden within spectrums of light, while Chun-chiang Shih's delicate paintings trace the migration of birds, clouds and people from his native Taiwan to a new landscape and lifestyle in Australia. Rosemary von Behrens' works are concerned with how swiftly modern machines lay waste to forests – destroying habitats, ecosystems and microclimates.

Belconnen Arts Centre is proud to be the location for this culturally and environmentally significant multi-arts project launch, and to be the first host for the bilingual publication, *Cycles: The Revolution of the Chrysalis / Cyclos: La Revolucion de la Crisalida*.

The exhibition runs until 27 September, with an Artists' Talk on Saturday 19 September at 2:00pm.



Encuentro Incorporated gratefully acknowledges the support of the ACT Government.

Further information: Anni Doyle Wawrzynczak, Curator, Ph. 6257 4496

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Belconnen Arts Centre is an ACT Government facility and is supported by the ACT Government

www.belconnenartscentre.com.au