

# MONASH UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS



*Primary Views: Artists curate the Monash University Collection, Installation view – Gallery 3. Photo: Christian Capurro*

## MEET THE CURATORS @ MUMA PRIMARY VIEWS: ARTISTS CURATE THE MONASH UNIVERSITY COLLECTION CURATORS: STEPHEN BRAM / JANET BURCHILL & JENNIFER McCAMLEY / JUAN DAVILA THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2009 4:30–6PM

Venue: Monash University Museum of Art | MUMA  
Ground Floor, Building 55, Monash University  
Clayton Campus, Mel ref 575 - Ticket parking is available opposite the gallery

### FREE SESSION

Artists **Stephen Bram**, **Janet Burchill** and **Jennifer McCamley** will discuss their roles as curators of the current exhibition *Primary Views* with MUMA Director **Max Delany** and co-ordinating curator **Kirrilly Hammond**.

*Primary Views* continues MUMA's series of summer season exhibitions which explore aspects of the Monash University Collection, inviting the insights of four artists represented in the collection. Stephen Bram, Juan Davila and Janet Burchill and Jennifer McCamley (working collaboratively) were invited to curate three self-contained exhibitions drawn from the collection, according to their own areas of interest, expertise and aesthetic/discursive predilections.

This informal conversation will focus on the role of the artist as curator and the politics, semantics and processes of curatorial practice. Discussion will also address exhibition design and the methods and considerations involved in preparing and presenting an exhibition, and the ways in which, through the relocation and rearrangement of images, *Primary Views* has revealed new and unexpected insights into the Monash University Collection; challenging dominant art historical narratives; revealing repressed histories, and developing new paradigms for exhibition design.

Artists: Howard Arkley, Paul Bai, Chris Barry, Charles Blackman, Peter Booth, Arthur Boyd, Stephen Bram, Horace Brodzky, Janet Burchill & Jennifer McCamley, Ian Burn, Jane Burton, Domenico de Clario, Clyde Clinton, Noel Counihan, Mutlu Çerkez, Juan Davila, John Dunkley-Smith, Richard Dunn, Louise Forthun, John Heartfield, Bill Henson, Lynn Hershman, Ronnie van Hout, Rafaat Ishak, Rosemary Laing, Robert Macpherson, Tracey Moffatt, John Nixon, Jacky Redgate, William Robins, Paul Saint, Dada Samson, Jan Senbergs, Wolfgang Sievers

Light refreshments will be served.  
Bookings essential. Places are limited  
Phone MUMA on 03 9905 4217 or email [muma@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:muma@adm.monash.edu.au)

**Monash University Museum of Art**  
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[www.monash.edu.au/muma](http://www.monash.edu.au/muma)  
Tues-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 2-5pm  
Free Entry

### Are your contact details up to date?

Please email MUMA at [muma@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:muma@adm.monash.edu.au) or call one of our friendly F.O.H. staff on 03 9905 4217 to update your school's contact details. Add an email address to receive regular e-newsletters regarding upcoming education and public programs, events, talks and exhibitions.

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**Primary Views:**  
Artists curate the Monash  
University Collection

## Artists' Biographies

### Stephen Bram

Stephen Bram was born in Melbourne in 1961, where he lives and works. He has held regular individual exhibitions at Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne, since 1988 and Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington, since 1997. *Incident in the Museum 1: Stephen Bram*, was held at Monash University Museum of Art in 2004.

Stephen Bram was an active contributor to the artist-run space Store 5 (Melbourne, 1989-1993) and has been involved in a wide range of individual exhibitions internationally, with projects including *Oberföhringer Straße 156*, FOE 156, Munich, Germany 2001; *PS Project*, Van Reekum Museum, Apeldoorn, Netherlands, 2001; and *Stephen Bram*, Barbara Gross Galerie, Munich, Germany, 1999.

Stephen Bram's practice involves an ongoing exploration of the relationship between abstract, geometric painting and the representation of architecture and spatial perception. This is articulated through site-specific wall drawings, paintings, and architectural and light installations.

Bram's selection of works for *Primary Views* explores singular moments of conceptual and abstract art, with an emphasis on the material language of artistic production, the relationship between the work and the viewer, perceptual shifts, and the aesthetic transformation of quotidian, vernacular and political expression.

Bram is represented by Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne, [www.annaschwartzgallery.com](http://www.annaschwartzgallery.com); and Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington, [www.hamishmckaygallery.com](http://www.hamishmckaygallery.com).

### Janet Burchill & Jennifer McCamley

Janet Burchill was born in 1955 in Melbourne, and Jennifer McCamley in 1957 in Brisbane. They have worked collaboratively and individually as artists since the mid 1980s, and currently live and work in Melbourne. Janet Burchill and Jennifer McCamley's practice embraces a wide variety of media – including sculpture, photography, film, video, neon and works on paper – to develop works which critically engage with the history and forms of modernist art and their relationship to everyday life, reconsidered through feminist, psychoanalytic, filmic and spatial discourses. In 1991 they were awarded the Australia Council's Kunsterhaus Bethanien Scholarship, and lived and worked in Berlin until 1997.

Janet Burchill and Jennifer McCamley have been the subject of several focus exhibitions including, most recently, *COMBINE: Janet Burchill, Jennifer McCamley and Melinda Harper*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne 2008, that was also curated by Burchill and McCamley; and *Janet Burchill Jennifer McCamley: Neon*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 2005. A major survey exhibition, *Tip of the Iceberg: selected works 1985-2001*, developed by the University Art Museum, University of Queensland, in 2001, also travelled to the Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, in the same year.

Burchill and McCamley's selection for *Primary Views* focuses upon the literal and material relationships between photography, film and sculptural practice, relationships which continue to be of relevance to their work.

Burchill/McCamley are represented by Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne, [www.annaschwartzgallery.com](http://www.annaschwartzgallery.com)

### Juan Davila

Juan Davila was born in Santiago, Chile in 1946, and moved to Melbourne, Australia in 1974, where he continues to live and work. Juan Davila has developed a considerable international reputation for his complex and provocative body of work which continues to challenge dominant art-historical and political narratives through the painterly interrogation of cultural, sexual and political identities.

Since his first individual exhibition in Santiago in 1974 Davila has held regular individual exhibitions in Australia, since 1977, and with Kalli Rolfe Contemporary Art from 1999. *Juan Davila*, a substantial monograph of the artist's work and writing was published in 2006 by The Miegunyah Press, Melbourne University Publishing, to coincide with a major retrospective exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 2006, which toured to the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, in 2007. He has presented numerous individual exhibitions internationally, in Santiago, Lima, Paris, Winnipeg, Madrid and London. Davila's work has featured in major group exhibitions nationally and internationally, including *Documenta 12*, Kassel, Germany 2007; *Power, Corruption and lies*, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane 1997; *Don't Leave Me This Way: Art in the Age of AIDS*, Australian National Gallery, Canberra 1994; *Moral Censorship and the Visual Arts in Australia*, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne 1989 and *Australian Art 1960-1986: Field to Figuration*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne 1987.

Juan Davila was recently awarded a State Library of Victoria Fellowship, with his research of the La Trobe Picture Collection leading to the artist's *Panorama of Melbourne* 2008. This epic work critically explores Melbourne's urban history from colonial, modern and postmodern perspectives. Alongside his *Panorama*, the artist presents an array of works which reference the complexity and diversity of urban form and representation.

Juan Davila is represented exclusively by Kalli Rolfe Contemporary Art, Melbourne, [www.kallirolfecontemporaryart.com](http://www.kallirolfecontemporaryart.com). See also [www.juandavila.com](http://www.juandavila.com)

