

Huang Xu & Liu Zhuoquan

New Works

27 November – 15 December 2012

In celebration of the 7th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art and in collaboration with China Art Projects, Chinese artists Huang Xu and Liu Zhuoquan will exhibit at Jan Murphy Gallery.

Zhuoquan's work follows his inclusion in the 2012 Sydney Biennale earlier this year. Exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art, his large-scale work *Where are you?* featured hundreds of painted bottles. A contemporary take on the traditional craft of 'snuff bottle' painting, Zhuoquan's images are skillfully painted on the inside of glass bottles. As with previous work, his most recent exhibition includes images relating to contemporary Chinese culture. Inspired by the lack of materialism he witnessed while living in Tibet, Liu transforms objects of commercialism and consumerism into a reflective body of artworks.

Having previously shown photographs of remodelled plastic bags and delicate, oversized flowers, Huang Xu's latest works are photographs of bizarre flattened toys. Deliberately kitsch in style, the images include a koala, a kangaroo, a panda, and Astro Boy. Like Zhuoquan's bottles, these photographs reveal the consumerist proliferation of soft toys around the world. Flattened and obese, the toys are recognisable yet resemble dead animals one might see by a roadway. Colourful and striking, the photographs are both humorous and macabre. This exhibition will run simultaneously with the gallery's annual Small Works show and in conjunction with ARTSunday: Sunday 9 December – 11am to 4pm.