

**James Dodd
Boab Inscriptions**

Exhibition 25 September – 21 November 2010

South Australian artist James Dodd brings new meaning to the term 'graffiti culture'.

Dodd applies his dynamic painting style to the unique cultural markings he finds inscribed on the gnarled trunks of Western Australia's unique Boab trees, in turn redefining the presence of street art in the contemporary art world.

Historic explorers, the names of lost lovers and the vulgar obscenities as patriotic as the trees on which they're carved – all forming an ad-hoc archive of the civilizations that have formed around the trunks of the Boab trees.

Fascinated with street art and the tradition of mark-making, Dodd embarked on a journey through the north of Western Australia. He investigated and recorded the distinctive style of graffiti that's hand-carved in the Kimberly's Boabs.

From indigenous history to colonial settlement, and now contemporary vandalism, Dodd draws out the cultural significance of these inscriptions, the trees on which they've been made, and interprets it in his exhibition at Fremantle Arts Centre.

Dodd's painterly practice is characterized by its vibrancy. Moving away from a New-York style of graffiti art, Dodd thrives on the isolation that distinguishes an Australian style away from the rest of the world's influence. "That's why I find outsider graffiti so exciting, because it doesn't adhere to a set of rules and is often unpredictable."

Explicitly concerned with the connection between the art we find on the street and art in a traditional gallery setting, he paints icons from Australian lives that are instantly recognizable and connect with the culture of our country.

The colours and shapes he creates have become his signature – from tropical sunsets on abandoned bus shelters, to street signs and graffiti emblazoned in a fluorescent palette.

Dodd has received a Masters of Fine Art from the University of South Australia. He lives in Adelaide and is represented by Lindberg Contemporary Art, Melbourne, and Ryan Renshaw Gallery, Brisbane. His residency at FAC is supported by Arts SA.

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Also on view:

Fremantle Arts Centre Print Award 2010 supported by Little Creatures Brewing

Fremantle Arts Centre
1 Finnerty St, Fremantle WA

fac.org.au

Free admission, open 7 days: 10am-5pm

~Ends

For more information, images or to arrange an interview contact **Kathryn Doust**,
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