

# MEDIA ALERT



18 MAY 2011

## EXHIBITION TRACKS ART'S STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID

The work of Apartheid-era South African black artists and the International artists that supported their struggle for democracy forms the basis of a powerful new exhibition opening at the ANU Drill Hall Gallery on Thursday 26 May.

The exhibition, *Home and Away: A return to the South*, showcases artworks that reveal a new side of South Africa's struggle towards equal rights. It brings together works from two collections, the Ifa Lethu Foundation and the Art Against Apartheid Collection, to explore the similarities and differences between art created by an oppressed people and work made by outsiders expressing support for them. It is the first time that either collection has been seen in a large-scale international show.

During the apartheid years in South Africa, many black artists expressed their feelings about the adversity they faced through powerful artworks. At the time, many of these artists were ignored by museum and corporate collections. Yet fortunately, artworks still made their way into private collections where they were stored for posterity and are now being repatriated back to South Africa through the Ifa Lethu Foundation ('Our Heritage') in an attempt to restore otherwise lost artistic statements.

The Ifa Lethu Foundation was officially formed in 2005 after various private collections from Australian donors were returned to South Africa. This generous action has been followed by donations of 'lost' art from private collectors in more than 14 countries, with many works still being received from Australians. The strong Australian-South African link is not only the basis of this international tour, but also of many of Ifa Lethu's development projects for young creative South African entrepreneurs.

The *Art Against Apartheid* collection was founded in France in 1980 as a rally point for international artists to create works in solidarity with oppressed South Africans. Artists including Christian Boltanski, Jose Gamarra, Jesus Raphael Soto, Carlos Cruz-Diez and Roy Lichtenstein gave generously of their work on the understanding that it would only be shown in South Africa once South Africa had become a democracy.

**The exhibition will be officially opened by former Prime Minister The Hon Malcolm Fraser AC CH on Thursday 26 May at 6pm. Mr Fraser is a member of the Ifa Lethu Global Advisory Council. The exhibition will continue at the Drill Hall Gallery until 3 July.**

The exhibition Curator, Carol Brown, will present a floor talk on the exhibition with an introduction by Dr Narissa Ramdhani, CEO of Ifa Lethu Foundation, on Friday 27 May at 12pm.

**For photographs of the works in the exhibition, interviews or further information: Tony Oates, Exhibitions Officer, on 02 6125 5832.**

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WHAT: Opening of Home and Away: A return to the South

WHEN: 6pm, Thursday 26 May

WHERE: Drill Hall Gallery, Kingsley Street (off Barry Drive)

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