



Blossoming 15



Nature Speaks AR

Exhibition Notice

IMANTS TILLERS

MELANCHOLY LANDSCAPE

13 MARCH- 5 APRIL, 2008

World acclaimed **Imants Tillers** will be exhibiting a poignant new body of work at Arc One Gallery on the 13 March, 2008. It has been 5 years since Tillers has had a solo exhibition in Melbourne.

This exhibition a **Melancholy Landscape**, continues Tillers ongoing project "the book of Power", and extends his exploration of the Australian Landscape, both historically and from the artist's own shifting vision, with allusions to Australian artists such as Rosalie Gascoyne and Fred Williams.

Mysticism, land, and language have been Tillers' great wonders throughout his renowned artistic journey. Tillers' pictorial conversations link our history and take us back to a land of magical melancholy. Since the 1980's, the Sydney born painter, has developed his own poetic lexicon, creating panels, which can be read as poems in a book or a map to Tillers' psychic mindscape. The layering of words, and the relationship between form and content create a harmony, similar to nature's own inherent current. Tillers characters are often re-birthed from a mixture of origins including his Latvian heritage, symbols informed by nature and the study of language per se.

Tillers established a major reputation in the early 1980's, for his powerful appropriation of culture, text and iconic imagery. In this particular series, **Melancholy Landscape**, Tillers has slightly altered his vision, from often referring to colonisation, displacement and appropriation, to most recently looking at place, locality and the Australian landscape. "This shift is something that has been breeding for over 10 years," says Tillers. "It is only recently that I have realised my work moves between two polarities. One is embedded in the European vision and the other the Australian landscape."

His inclusion in international and national museum collections and curated exhibitions is extraordinary.

Recently selected as one of the first contemporary acquisitions, together with Kathleen Petyarre, by the Bridgestone Art Museum, (Ishibashi Foundation Tokyo).

Imants Tillers has been at the forefront of contemporary art for over three decades. He has been the receiver of numerous awards and commissions, such as the Osaka Triennale Prize (Gold in 1993, Bronze in 1996, and silver 2001) and the inaugural Beijing International Art Biennale Prize for excellence (2003). Major commissions include the Federation Pavilion, Centennial Park (1985- 87); the founding Donors Painting, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (1991) and two key sculptures for Sydney Olympic Park (2002). Tillers has been a trustee of the Art Gallery of New South Wales since 2001. In 2005 he was awarded a doctor of letters honour causa for 'his long and distinguished contribution to the field of arts, by the university of New South Wales.

Imants Tillers will be available for interviews from 12th- 14th March.