



ON SHOW: John A Douglas' *Circles of Fire* will appear at The Riddoch Art Gallery as part of *The Patient*.
Picture: CHALKHORSE GALLERY, SYDNEY

Bold exhibition launch

Medical experience inspires eclectic, mixed media display

TWO unique exhibitions set to challenge viewers will be launched at the Riddoch Art Gallery tonight.

The Patient - curated by Bec Dean and Keith Armstrong's *Future-Future?* - will be officially launched at the gallery at 6pm.

Consisting of 12 art installations, *The Patient* engages with the complex and challenging aspects of human existence, living with illness, adapting to bodily change and approaching death.

Ms Dean said it was an eclectic exhibition of works.

"The collection of works, new experiments and ongoing projects that comprise *The Patient* are all variously difficult, fearless, funny, painfully beautiful and unlovely," she said.

"They range across media and connect to us as viewers and occasionally as participants through both familiar and leading-

edge technologies."

The Patient presents the embodied experience of the artist as a medical patient and the medical patient as a living art subject.

"This fantastic line-up of artists confronts us with ways in which artists engage with representing human conditions of illness and care," gallery director Dr Melentje Pandilovski said.

"Curator Bec Dean ultimately conveys the story of what it means to be human."

The Future-Future? exhibition is inspired by Mr Armstrong's recent artist residency in South Africa supported by the Program for Innovation in Artform Development and local community NGO Qala Phelang Tala.

"My exhibition of electronic sculptures, videos and interactive works will examine the innovative cultural practices witnessed in the

townships, showcasing the transformative power of cooperative, creative action for the festival's local and international audiences," Mr Armstrong said.

The work considers how "change agents" from other cultures are working to construct a "future for their future", based on different desires.

"Together with local community members, Keith examined how social development and culture can assist communities to regenerate, including housing infrastructure and cultural environments," Dr Pandilovski said.

"Results of the project include building of 'post-natural' houses and community instigated Merakas, cultural gatherings and market places."

Both exhibitions will be on show at the Riddoch Art Gallery until January 28.

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