



Open Air – a multimodal project for Mosman Art Gallery

29 October – 31 December 2011

launched at the 2011 Festival of Mosman

Open Air by media artist, Chris Caines, is a project in two parts, a responsive video installation at Mosman Art Gallery and a companion locative audio essay iPhone app for the Curlew Camp Artist's Trail at Little Sirius Cove. Developed in partnership with the Centre for Media Arts innovation at UTS, led by Caines, the project is a meditation on the tradition of landscape as a subject for artists in Australia from 19th century painting to the media arts of the present day.

It uses the example of the Curlew Artists Camp where Arthur Streeton and Tom Roberts worked in the 1890s as a way of thinking about the notion of landscape as a creative form and how those famous foundational paintings produced at that site came to influence our idea of a national aesthetic in the visual arts. Representations of landscape are an Australian cultural tradition absolutely central to indigenous art but also core to settler and immigrant culture as ways of thinking about both mapping territory and a sense of place.

The video installation in the gallery responds to visitors entering the space by lighting up a table in the centre of the room where twelve small rectangles of video begin to play with images of landscapes shot by Caines across Sydney, Melbourne, the Blue Mountains and the Yarra Valley. These are interspersed with text animated fragments of letters between Streeton and Roberts and accompanied by a soundscape composed from field recordings taken in the same locations as the images.

The companion iPhone app takes the form of a three part locative audio essay to be experienced walking and sitting at locations along the Curlew Artists' Walk that begins at Little Sirius Cove in Mosman. Starting at the left hand side of Little Sirius Cove where one of the Streeton paintings is commemorated with a frame that replicates the view of the image it then continues along the path past Taronga Zoo before ending at the site of the Camp itself. The audio contains in-situ reflections on our understanding of the Curlew images in forming national identity and soundscapes designed to be experienced in those locations.

It is best experienced with headphones.

Available for comment: Chris Caines, artist / John Cheeseman, Director, Mosman Art Gallery & Festival of Mosman

media contact: Leah Haynes – leahmhaynes@gmail.com /M: 0408 419 463

Open Air

@ Mosman Art Gallery, cnr Art Gallery Way & Myahgah Road, Mosman, NSW & onsite at Sirius Cove

29 October – 31 December / Gallery Hours: Daily 10am – 5pm / Cost: Free

PH: 02 9978 4178 / www.mosmanartgallery.org.au

A 2011 Festival of Mosman art event. www.festivalofmosman.net.au

The Open Air app has gone live in the Apple Store.

<http://itunes.apple.com/app/open-air-locative-audio-essay/id473493178?mt=8>

Artist Talk: Saturday 3 December, 2pm meet Chris Caines at Mosman Art Gallery and then travel to Sirius Cove

