

## PHILIP WISCHER AUSTRALIA b.1966

Worthwhile innovations in art occur when artists find existing methods of expression inadequate to realize their visions. In the late 1980's after 5 years of studying fine art history Wischer went on to develop his shaped paintings which emerged from painting the landscape "en plein air". Gnarled and twisted eucalypt branches joined together form frames on to which the canvas is stretched. Many of his works are three dimensional and hence arguably sculpture; For a decade now most of his work has been multi-dimensional;" Few things in life *are* flat and square". He is the originator\inventor of this type of work - unique in and to Australia.

Artist PHILIP WISCHER currently lives among many of the last Nomads of Australia. As little as 14 years ago some of the Aborigines he lives with "came in" from living a fully traditional lifestyle. As a "whitefella" Wischer's work attempts to confront contemporary social situations and respective cultural maintenance to gain a sense of place, tradition, relationship, and the role which art has in translating this.

For Wischer, 'time and place' is what he is interested in observing,- his contemporary art involves creating a legitimate reading of Australia documenting a plethora of discourse addressing the engagement of two cultures in their past and present states.

"Once something has happened it is history - and from thereon remains like nature - gradually eroding and renewing. Things either re-invent themselves or are re-invented by others; we are all part of this process and change. Apart from my interest in the primal mark, my art works in layers - giving complexity, covering up, or revealing, not only to reference human nature but to suggest the inescapability of something that is done. This is why I deal with history; Any thing that happens *is* history - after which the alterations begin - the myths constructed and reality contorted".

After a successful 1995 solo exhibition Wischer was invited to exhibit again in the Tokyo Ginza district. From March 23 - 29 1998 he will show works relating to his experiences and life with the Pintupi people of the Gibson Desert. After Tokyo, Wischer will exhibit similar works in New York with Montague Art Galleries Inc. at ART 54 (Soho).

Post-modernity provides a perplexing arena for all Australians, multi-cultural as we are; But I believe there is a responsibility perhaps especially with the arts to tackle the 'too hard basket'.

"My reason for this project as with all my work is to metaphorically hold a mirror to society (which I believe is a responsibility of artists). I feel it is time in Australia to confront the issues of interculturalism,- and art, as a mechanism stimulates this discussion. As a nation, stories from black and white Australia need to form our own tjukurpa, myths, and identities; our separateness yet our togetherness".

In the words of Mary-Lou Jelbart (ABC Radio April 1993) Wischer's works are "idiosyncratic...particularly interesting and tremendously intriguing".