

After India



Site 1 QPAC Window
24 April – 11 June

Site 2 Metro Arts Galleries
16 May – 2 June

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Sitting in a sunny spot in Delhi with a traditional stone carver as he taps the word ‘intimacy’ into a boulder is a satisfying memory Brisbane-based artist, Mandy Ridley, will reflect on in her upcoming solo exhibition, *After India*, opening Wednesday 16 May at Metro Arts Galleries.

To communicate learnings from her Asialink Residency at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi in 2005, Ridley will present photographic prints accompanied by a soundscape within a welcoming exhibition space of great intensity and stillness at Metro Arts Galleries.

While based at the university, she created *the intimacy project*, a site-specific text work in collaboration with a traditional stone carver and language professors.

Ridley chose the word ‘intimacy’ and invited academics to contribute translations of the word in 10 different languages, with the words then given to a carver to inscribe into stone at a central meeting site at the University.

The process - which involved developing contacts at the University, gathering resources, and permissions to carve the stones – in itself allowed Ridley to experience contemporary Indian society. The very task of obtaining the translations required her to define her understanding of intimacy around connections between individuals which can override differences in culture, experience and reality.

Ridley explains, “In my solo exhibition, I want to reflect on the experience of travelling or living in a country other than of one’s birth; the nature of the collaborative process; and the materiality of art making”.

“The very act of communicating what I wanted to translate illustrated nuances of meaning between languages and cultures, and the perils of translation.

“It also hinted at the potential for misunderstanding and the joy which a flash of shared understanding can give.”

Ridley is presenting her reflections over two sites – a sculptural work created from polypropylene and light installed in the QPAC Window from April 24 to June 11; and the other of photographic prints, sound and space at Metro Arts Galleries from May 16 to June 2.

Musician, writer and songwriter, Linda Neil, will provide a soundscape to Ridley’s Metro Arts exhibition to sonically capture the delicate, sometimes ephemeral nature of the moments Mandy describes in her narrative and artist’s statement as ‘fleeting’.

Opening: Wednesday 16 May 6-8pm (with *Blueprints for a New Topiary*)

Exhibition: 16 May - 2 June

Artist Talk: Thursday 17 May 12noon

Metro Arts Galleries Level 2, 109 Edward Street, Brisbane

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MANDY RIDLEY – BIO (www.mandyridley.com)

Born in Richmond, Victoria, Mandy Ridley now lives and works in Brisbane, Queensland. Ridley creates artworks for both exhibition and public art across a wide range of media. An interest in pattern, material culture and the issues of craft and appropriation are recurring themes; however the central focus of the work is exploring the relationships and connections between individuals. In 2004, she was awarded an Asialink residency to India. Her work has been exhibited nationally since 1996 and is held in Queensland collections, Artbank and in privately both in Australia and India. She was awarded a Masters Fine Arts from the Queensland University of Technology, 2000.

LINDA NEIL – BIO (SOUNDSCAPE)

Linda Neil will provide the soundscape for Ridley's After India: Site 2 project at Metro Arts. Neil has a multi disciplinary practice as a musician, writer, and songwriter. Her plays and scripts have been performed and produced Australia wide. Neil is currently in preproduction on three ABC Radio National productions, including Darling Leonardo for Airplay and The Sound of Blue for Into the Music on Radio Eye. The soundscape for the After India project was made with a track originally recorded for her 2001 album The New Passion Club, co-produced with Ed Kuepper. She is currently completing a PhD in Creative Writing at The University of Queensland where she teaches writing and media studies.