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New York's Garis & Hahn Gallery Exposes Diversity of Australian Art Scene



"Adam and Eve With Eyes and Spoon" by Stephen Bird

Garis & Hahn

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Published: May 8, 2013

Australian art has its very own ambassador in New York in the form of **Sophie Hahn**, co-founder of New York gallery **Garis & Hahn**. Sydney-born Hahn worked for **Shapiro Auctioneers** and **AXA Art Insurance** before launching Garis & Hahn in New York's Lower East Side in January 2013.

Hahn's Australian background has had a significant impact on the curatorial direction of the gallery as evinced by the Gallery's upcoming presentation of two Australian artists at the **Cutlog NY Art Fair**. As well as the Cutlog presentation, Garis & Hahn will also launch an exhibition of contemporary Australian art, "**Peripheral Visions**," on the 8th of May.

Curated by Sydney and New York-based curator **Marissa Bateman**, the former Associate Director of **Rex Irwin Art Dealer** in Sydney, "Peripheral Visions" looks beyond the boundaries of the Australian landscape tradition with the aim of exposing the breadth and diversity of the Australian contemporary art scene to an international audience. In keeping with the barrier-breaking spirit of the exhibition, Bateman has chosen to eschew a traditional academic theme in favour of a broader exploration of gender, identity, culture, and history.

According to Bateman, "Peripheral Visions' carries multiple meanings and resonances. Most immediately it refers to Australia's peripheral positioning within the international art market, of which New York is the epicenter. With London's art powerhouses Saatchi Gallery and the Royal Academy both staging surveys of Australian art in the next eighteen months, it seemed fitting to start this international engagement with the exceptional artistic talent emerging from Australia in the partly Australian-run New York gallery, Garis & Hahn."

"Peripheral Visions" features an incredible line-up of Australia's most talented and respected contemporary artists including **Vernon Ah Kee**, **Claire Healy & Sean Corderio**, **Joel Beerden**, **Stephen Bird**, **Nicholas Folland**, **Dan McKewen**, **Amanda Marburg**, **Liam Benson** and **Phoebe Rathmell**. The exhibition is not only remarkable for the diversity of Australian artistic talent on show, but also because each of the artists are being exhibited in New York for the first time – "an astounding fact given that three of the artists (Vernon Ah Kee, Claire Healy & Sean Cordeiro) have exhibited at the world's most prestigious contemporary art event, the Venice Biennale," says a Gallery spokesperson.

According to Garis & Hahn, each artist was selected for their unique mark making processes with peripheral materials such as Plasticine and LEGO. A playful yet challenging LEGO picture by Claire Healy & Sean Corderio, an ethereal toothpick installation by Phoebe Rathmell, and a series of distinctly-decorated dinnerware by Stephen Bird are just a few of the many wonderful works featured in the exhibition.



Any international exposure for the work of Australian artists is of course most welcome, but what Garis & Hahn are presenting is particularly special because it challenges prevailing perceptions of Australian contemporary art internationally and asks viewers to move beyond the often myopic representations of the Australian art scene.

For more information on the "Peripheral Visions: Contemporary Art from Australia" visit the Garis & Hahn website [here](#)

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