

mixed-up childhood

AUCKLAND ART GALLERY

February 24 – May 22 **Mixed-up Childhood: an exhibition for grown-ups**

As the title suggests, this exhibition is one for adults – it examines concepts and constructions of childhood through adult eyes. The Gallery recommends that this exhibition be **viewed only by students of 16yrs and older**. We also strongly advise that teachers view the exhibition before bringing classes and that you follow school guidelines for informing students and parents of the material and themes in the exhibition. Please note that the Gallery will not accept bookings, or allow entry, to students below year 12.

Having said this, there are many works in Mixed-up Childhood that will be invaluable for study by senior secondary and tertiary students.

'We are thrilled to have secured the sixth instalment of **Mary Kelly's** Post Partum Document. The Document records Kelly's observations of her son's early development and her own engagement with the process as a mother. It is a dispassionate, seemingly scientific piece, unlike the more prevalent romantic contemporary images of motherhood. It is a watershed work of 1970s feminist art, marking the turning point from essentialist feminism to theory-oriented work.'



Robert Leonard curator Mixed-up Childhood

Mary Kelly Post-Partum Document, Documentation VI 1978-1979

'**Louise Bourgeois** is in her 90s and still has unfinished business from her childhood. We have one of her cell pieces from the 1990s. It is a mesh and glass enclosure that suggests protection or imprisonment, privacy but also surveillance. Inside, chairs support glass bubbles, standing in for the artist's family members as 'emotional bubbles'.



Janita Crow

Louise Bourgeois Cell (glass, spheres, and hands) 1990-3

Family life is also addressed in **Sally Mann's** photographs of her children growing up in rural Virginia in the 1980s and very early 1990s. Her poetic images are troubling because they cross categories and endanger oppositions: nature/culture, innocent/evil, adult/child, civil/feral, boy/girl. We have a suite of seven photos from her controversial series *Immediate Family.*'



Sally Mann *The New Mothers* black and white photograph 1989

Janita Crow curator Mixed-up Childhood



AES+F *The King of the Forest* Video 2001-2

Other artists include: Christian Boltanski, Henry Darger, Robert Gober, Mike Kelley, Loretta Lux, Paul McCarthy, Grayson Perry, Inez van Lamsweerde, Gillian Wearing, Richard Killeen, Yvonne Todd, Sima Urale, Anthony Goicolea and the Russian video collective AES+F.

Check the Gallery's website for more information on the artists in the exhibition – we can also provide an introduction to the exhibition's themes and key works for groups of students.

Remember that **Handboek: Ans Westra Photographs** is on from March 19 – May 15 and that you can see both exhibitions for \$2 with concession booking. Material for this exhibition will also be available at www.aucklandartgallery.govt.nz



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