

**HUW DAVIES GALLERY**  
***Nije Crna (Not Black)***



**Tim Brook and Ruth Hingston, with Lea Collins** | 14 June to 13 July 2008



*Tim Brook, Rijeka Crnojevic (detail)*

We saw some of Tim Brook's slide based work at a Shared Image night last year, but without a venue to host it properly it wasn't possible to show entire works by Tim or other multimedia artists at PhotoAccess. Late in 2007 we created the Multimedia Room to complement the two main HUW DAVIES GALLERY spaces, and this installation by Tim Brook and Ruth Hingston, with a sound collage by Lea Collins, is the third and most challenging use of the room.

Tim and Ruth had a residency in Montenegro last year. The installation was developed during that time and first shown at the Academy of Fine Art, Cetinje in late 2007. Visit <http://hingstonbrook.com/10crna/> to preview the work.

Tim Brook has a long association with PhotoAccess, and he has been a member of the board since 2004. Although Ruth Hingston has been a frequent visitor, this is the first time we have been able to show her work. Lea Collins was involved in the *Mirror City* project in 2005–06, creating a sound scape to accompany Mary Hutchison's *Intimate geographies*.

PhotoAccess is very pleased to host this multimedia installation by Tim Brook and Ruth Hingston, with a sound collage by Lea Collins, in the Huw Davies Gallery at the Manuka Arts Centre. This is the first of six exhibitions PhotoAccess will contribute to the VIVID: NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL.

David Chalker

## Artist Statement

We expected black clouds and dark shadows—the use of black is so distinctive in Montenegrin art—but our first impressions of Montenegro were dominated by the architecture and by the washing. The buildings are almost permanently decorated with lines of washing, and the crowds in the streets smell of fresh clean washing. Montenegrin towns aren't black. Nisu crni.

Montenegrins have struggled against hardship and adversity for much of the last six hundred years. Even now, they are struggling to recover from a war, from economic sanctions and from the onslaught of capitalism. In spite of this, we were greeted with the most remarkable warmth, openness and generosity. Montenegro's mood isn't black. Nije crn.

People from the former Yugoslavia have been settling in the Canberra region for decades. They've given us Canberra's second language. Their culture has been a lasting influence on our Canberra culture. And it isn't all black. Nije crna.

Montenegro, Crna Gora, means black mountain but the mountainsides of Montenegro are strewn with white limestone boulders. Montenegrin landscapes aren't black. Nisu crni.

Montenegro isn't black. Nije Crna.

Tim Brook and Ruth Hingston  
June 2008

## Artist CVs

### Tim Brook

Tim Brook is an audio-visual artist—he makes slide-tape works. Usually he works alone or in collaboration with the composer Arne Hanna or the visual artist Ruth Hingston. He's been making audio-visual works for almost 30 years, collaborating with composers, performers, theatrical directors and visual artists. As a photographer, Tim was originally known for documenting the work of visual and performing artists. Since 1994, most of his work has been a close study of surfaces—their textures, patterns and colours.

Tim is an audio-visual artist, a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University School of Art and a member of the board of PhotoAccess

### Ruth Hingston

Ruth Hingston is a visual artist who works in a diverse range of mixed media. Her art practice is informed by a background in drawing, textiles and fashion. She enjoys exploring the tensions of paradoxical observations, and for many years her work has explored the subtle relationships between interiors and exteriors. Her work has focused on the complex interactions between these spaces and the perceptions of the people who live in them—interactions between landscapes, houses and daily domestic life.

Characteristically Ruth's final art works are low relief, textured, mixed media paintings and drawings. These works are constructed from recycled materials traditionally associated with domestic life—household linen, clothing, envelopes, cardboard boxes. She uses a wide range of techniques drawn from painting, textiles and fashion to create the final pieces.

### Lea Collins

Following extensive work in theatre, radio, music, sound production and audio training Lea Collins completed a Graduate Diploma in Electronic Arts from the Australian National University in 1997.

Lea's work has been included in concert and festival programs in Australia and overseas, she has worked on projects with Radio 2XXfm in Canberra and the National Archives of Australia. Her composition work explores spatialised sound, algorithmic generation of sound material and vocal treatments as well as a continued interest in the voice. Since 2004, Lea has taught Studio Technique and Live Sound at the Canberra Institute of Technology's Music Industry Centre and Computer Music for Digital Arts and Media Arts students at ANU.

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**HUW DAVIES GALLERY @ PhotoAccess**

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