

Just Like Home by Lisa Hilli

***Just Like Home* is an exhibition, a meal, a film and a biography, which explores artist Lisa Hilli's New Guinean and Australian heritage.**



Just Like Home celebrates the continuation of *Tolais* cooking traditions, unique to the people of Rabaul, Papua New Guinea, with an Aussie twist. With one simple meal Lisa Hilli highlights issues of assimilation and cultural adaptation.

Video Documentary

Lisa's video documentary, *Just Like Home*, is a portrayal of her mother, Cathy, preparing *I gir* (e gee-rrra), literally meaning 'to steam with hot stones'. Made in suburban Brisbane, *Just Like Home* positions this specific Tolais culinary practice in a Western context, and reveals an interesting development; instead of using banana leaves which are integral to the cooking process, Lisa's mother uses tin foil, thus adapting the recipe to suit her new adopted home and the resources at hand.

Sculptures

Watch Hilli's video documentary under the shade of her life-sized banana tree sculptures constructed entirely of tin foil. Drawing inspiration from her mother these banana trees are shining monuments to the continuation and adaptation of this specific Tolais

cooking tradition within Australia, and a celebration of a culture's capacities to respond to shifting circumstances.

***I Gir* Cooking Demonstration / Performance**

Lisa Hilli and her mother Cathy Hilli guide and demonstrate a celebratory feast melding Australian and Papua New Guinean cultures, where members of the public participate in the preparation, cooking and eating of *I gir*, a traditional vegetable and chicken dish cooked in banana leaves. While much of the time consuming food preparation will be done in advance of the demonstration participants are encouraged to try scraping coconuts, softening banana leaves and assisting Cathy in other aspects of the process. Then participants sit down and share *I gir* with Lisa and Cathy.

"As a critical focal point of this project, I feel it is important to maintain my cultural inheritances and continue to practice them even if they are not truly in the traditional sense. By applying these cultural histories and traditions through a contemporary context, I believe my ideas and knowledge of my New Guinean culture are being delivered in a way that appeals to an audience within popular culture yet fulfils my needs to maintain my specific New Guinean / Australian individuality." **Lisa Hilli, Artist**

MEDIA QUOTES

"It soon becomes evident that Just Like Home is less of a documentary than a documented exchange, a personal conversation between Hilli and her mother that we happen to be privy to; the camera a simply an intermediary".

Meg Hale, Re – emoting The Screen, Remote Catalogue, Next Wave Festival 2008

"Tinfoil became the conduit between her PNG ancestry and her Australian way of life..."

Lily Bragge, The Age, 2008



2010 AVAILABILITY

January – December, excepting early March

TOURING PARTY OF 2

Lisa Hilli – Artist

Cathy Hilli – Cooking Demonstrator

TARGET AUDIENCES

- Contemporary art audiences
- Adults and supervised children
- Community groups of all kinds
- Melanesian and Pacific Islander community groups

MARKETING

As a part of the 2010 Kultour Tour of *Just Like Home* the following marketing support will be available:

- Marketing kits
- Printed tour posters and flyers
- E-flyers
- Stills
- DVD material
- Support to develop community audiences for the show in your area

EXHIBITION DETAILS



The exhibition consists of:

- an installation of two banana tree sculptures; and
- a video documentary screened on a 1908's TV set

LIST OF ITEMS

- Sculpture 1: 1 banana tree with bananas, 15kgs, 2.8 meters (height), 2 – 2.5 meters (diameter)
- Sculpture 2: 1 banana tree, 10kgs, 2.0 meters (height), 1 – 1.5 meters (diameter)
- 1 DVD
- 1 1980's Television, approx 8kgs, 40cm square
- 2 x directional lamps, to be floor mounted
- Tin foil roll and masking tape rolls

VENUE REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum Space required: 5 x 4 meters, height 3 meters
- At least two power outlets within the exhibited space

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AT VENUE

- DVD Player
- A Plinth for TV Set, no smaller than 50cm (length) 40cm (width) 130cm (height), ideally the plinth will conceal the DVD Player inside it.

INSTALLATION OF EXHIBITION

- One venue staff required for 3 hours
- Artist required for 8 hours (6.5 hours creating new banana leaves, 1.5 hours installation)
- The trunk and branches of the banana tree sculptures are transported in two parts and are easily assembled.
- Leaves of the banana trees are very delicate and need to be made freshly by the artist for each exhibition. They should be made in the gallery space itself, or in a nearby workshop if entranceway will allow for the fully constructed sculptures to be successfully transported into the gallery space from the workshop.

DISMANTLING OF EXHIBITION

- One venue staff required for 2 hours

COOKING DEMONSTRATION DETAILS

I GIR

Literally meaning 'to steam with hot stones' *I Gir* is a traditional Tolais dish from Papua New Guinea. Sweet potato, leafy greens, bananas, chicken and coconut are steamed inside a banana leaf parcel with hot river stones and served with rice. Cathy Hilli has adapted the traditional cooking method of the dish to allow it to be prepared in Australia.

DETAILS

- 2 hours - length of cooking demonstration
- 15 participants maximum
- adults and supervised children from all communities – target participants

VENUE SPACE REQUIREMENTS

- Small kitchen area with sink, stove and bench space to prepare food pre demonstration
- Access to electricity, hot water, and refrigeration for chicken pieces
- An outdoor area with two preparation tables where cooking takes place, with sufficient room for participants to gather, and to heat stones in webber BBQ (alternatively, participants may work and gather indoors, and only webber BBQ remains outside)

EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED BY THE VENUE

- 2 x preparation tables
- Stove to par-cook chicken (or electric frying pan can be provided)
- Drinking water
- Access to rubbish bins and fire extinguisher etc
- O.H.S officer / Fire warden for 5 hours with knowledge of the use of fire extinguisher, fire blankets, fire exits etc

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY THE ARTIST:

- Sweet potato, coconuts, chicken, New Guinean leafy greens, Bananas and banana leaves, Rice
- Eating utensils, plates and serviettes
- Heat Beads for BBQ
- Tea towels, cleaning cloths, detergent, bin liners

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY THE ARTIST:

- Webber BBQ
- 40 river stones for cooking
- Coconut scrapers, cooks knives, tongs, vegetable peeler
- Chopping board
- Large saucepans and baking tray
- Rice cooker
- Temperature gauge

BIOGRAPHIES

Lisa Hilli - Artist

Lisa was born in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea, and moved to Australia with her family as a small child. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from RMIT's School of Art, and works primarily as a New Media Artist. Through the use of video, photography, sculpture and installation, Lisa continues to explore the cross - cultural differences of her Papua New Guinean and Australian heritage. Lisa has recently participated in a 4 week Artist residency at University of Goroka, Papua New Guinea. Previously she has had her work shown in the 2008 Next Wave Festival, ACMI Cinemas, Tape Projects and 123TV - C31. Lisa also works closely with a band *Grrilla Step*, and has toured with them as a VJ creating original moving images for the bands Pacific hip hop sound as apart of the Adelaide Fringe Festival 2008. In 2009 Lisa will be collaborating with world renowned Hip Hop DJ, Dexter, to create a multimedia show celebrating his 20th year as a DJ, as a part of his upcoming world tour.

Cathy Hilli – Cooking Demonstrator

Born in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea, Cathy spent her formative years as an adult in a typical New Guinea village and migrated to Australia with her Australian husband and four children. For almost 27 years, Cathy has lived in her suburban home in Brisbane, Queensland. Throughout this time, Cathy has strongly maintained certain aspects of her New Guinean traditions within the Australian environment.



For more Information please contact:

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