

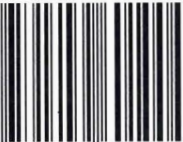
Dumbo feather, pass it on.

ISSUE TWENTY-THREE: Ben Keene. Caroline Swift. John Hardy. Hayley Allen. Martin Hughes.



ISSN 1449-6011

05



9 771449 601004

The Art of [Living Fearlessly]



Jane O'Neill proves that the old adage, "If you don't ask, you won't get" is alive and well. After reading that Australian artist Adam Cullen was to be the subject of a new boutique art hotel in Melbourne she was thrilled for him. The whole hotel is dedicated to his works and, being a long time Cullen curator, she became as bold as a Cullen canvas and picked up the phone to get involved.

Jane first developed her interest in art at university. A lack of positions available in Psychology meant she went along to Art History instead and was "hooked from day one." Following a stint with a well-known Sydney gallery she decided she wanted to both create her own artwork and curate shows.

Jane's history with Adam Cullen goes back to the mid-'90s when ... well, she almost killed him. When Jane first came across Cullen's work she was immediately drawn to it and curated

him into her first exhibition held in 1996. "It's quite common with Adam's work for people become bewitched and obsessed by it," she says. On the way to the exhibition at Bundaberg Regional Art Centre Jane explains, "We were driving along this quiet country road when my car did this complete, out-of-the-blue donut around this sharp corner and nearly went over the edge." They started writing letters every week and a year later Jane curated Cullen into another major national traveling exhibition called 'Rough Trade'. She says, "I really believed in Adam and the five other artists I had in that show,

yet they weren't very well-known, but it's gratifying now because those artists have achieved widespread success, one was even at the Venice Biennale."

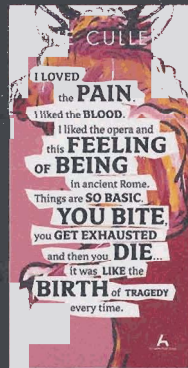
So, in early 2009, when she read that newspaper article, she called Cullen to congratulate him. He immediately suggested she "get on board and work for these people," and with that, Jane had herself a job as in-house curator for the hotels.

The Cullen is the first in a series of six, and what the Art Series Hotel Group (ASGH, developers of The Cullen and subsequent hotels) saw in Jane was her passion for bridging the divide between

'the art scene' and everyday people. She has also had invaluable experience with all three of the artists to be featured in the forthcoming hotels The Olsen and The Blackman.

Jane is "passionate about this being a great project for the broader Melbourne art scene by bringing people to out-of-the-way galleries and small artist-run spaces." She's also excited by an Emerging Artist in Residence Programme in the pipeline for the hotels.

In the hope of ASHG creating unique experiences, Jane speaks of one couple who "were obviously feeling pretty inspired because, when the housekeeping staff went in to clean their room, they'd completely coloured in the horse on a frosted glass Cullen etching!" With The Olsen having opened in early March there's plenty more inspiration and creativity to come.



For a chance to win a two-night stay at The Cullen in Melbourne, including a curated tour with Jane O'Neill, tell us about the most interesting/inspiring/original gallery you have visited and why. Please use 25 words or less and email your responses to comps@dumbofeather.com before 5pm EST on 31st May 21

