

# BRIAN MCKAY



This exhibition draws together works by one of Western Australia's leading contemporary artists from the City of Fremantle and Murdoch University Art Collections. The selection acknowledges Brian McKay's longstanding commitment to making art in Fremantle, at a time when Western Australia is celebrating its foremost living artists.

*Collective Works* presents examples of painting, works on paper and aluminium acquired by the two organisations over the last twenty years, which capture in a small part, the spirit and development of the artist's studio and public practice since 1983. Evidenced here is McKay's practical modernist ethos in incorporating a range of fine art print materials and technologies in creating pared down, multilayered painted surfaces, which connect with his early experience of landscape in regional WA.

These eroded and distressed qualities are consistent in his latter works, where he reworks industrial materials such as aluminium sheets and automotive paint, to create reflective and refractive veneers echoing his formative working life as designer and commercial printer.

Beneath McKay's refined and burnished surfaces lies a profound political awareness and social conviction to locate contemporary art in the centre of every day cultural experience. A true believer in the social function of art, McKay has remained a passionate and consistently energetic maker. Through his efforts as an educator, advocate and social protagonist he has made an indelible contribution to the art and cultural scene in Western Australia.

The City of Fremantle would like to acknowledge Brian McKay, Doug and Magda Sheerer and Murdoch University Art Collection who generously supported this exhibition.

Brian McKay is represented by Galerie Düsseldorf - [www.galeriedusseldorf.com.au](http://www.galeriedusseldorf.com.au)

The City of Fremantle Art Collection Curator is available to meet visitors and conduct floor talks in the gallery by appointment on 9432 9828 or [andrel@fremantle.wa.gov.au](mailto:andrel@fremantle.wa.gov.au)

For more information about the City of Fremantle Art Collection pick up a copy of *Revealing* available from this Gallery or visit our webpage [www.freofocus.com.au](http://www.freofocus.com.au) and follow the links to Arts and Culture.

Brian McKay - *Collective Works* is presented as a contribution to Living Artists WA - *Artopia* and Fremantle Festival 'Illuminate'. Exhibited at the City of Fremantle Art Collection Gallery, located upstairs at the Fremantle Art Centre and City of Fremantle Library located downstairs at the Town Hall Centre.

*Brian McKay - Collective Works* October 21 - December 4, 2005. © Brian McKay and City of Fremantle Art Collection



FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE 1 Finnerty Street Fremantle Phone 9432 9555 Fax 9430 6613



Savannah



Roundhouse IV



HM Prison 1831 - 86



Duo



Quintet

**CHECK LIST - Fremantle Arts Centre**

**Savannah (1984)**

Oil paint and white lead on canvas

122.2 x 137.5 cms

City of Fremantle Art Collection Acc. No. 94

**Roundhouse IV (1984)**

Titanium, marble dust, bees wax and oil paint on paper

72 x 105 cms

City of Fremantle Art Collection Acc. No. 95

**HM Prison 1831 - 86 (1988)**

Oil and acrylic paint on canvas

152.5 x 213 cms

City of Fremantle Art Collection Acc. No. 493

**T- Bar (Blue) (2000)**

Oil paint on etched aluminium

47 x 36 cms

On loan courtesy of Murdoch University Art Collection

**Messagio (2000)**

Distressed and etched aluminium

65 x 52 cms

On loan courtesy of Murdoch University Art Collection

**Duo (2004)**

Automotive enamel paint on etched aluminium

110 x 110 cms

On loan courtesy of Galerie Düsseldorf

**Quintet (2004)**

Automotive enamel paint on etched aluminium

110 x 110 cms

On loan courtesy of Galerie Düsseldorf



Viking

**Viking (2004)**

Automotive enamel paint on etched aluminium

110 x 110 cms

On loan courtesy of Galerie Düsseldorf

**Ambiguous Box (2004)**

Automotive enamel paint on etched aluminium

110 x 110 cms

On loan courtesy of Galerie Düsseldorf



Ambiguous Box

**Sylvania (2005)**

Oil and automotive enamel paint on etched aluminium

1300 x 1100 cms

On loan courtesy of Galerie Düsseldorf

**CHECK LIST - Fremantle City Library**

**The Bishop's Journey (1985)**

Screenprint Edition 4/35

54 x 41.5 cms

City of Fremantle Art Collection Acc. No. 252

**(d. Untitled Fremantle poster design) (1986)**

Watercolour, charcoal and pencil on paper

96.5 x 64.7 cms

City of Fremantle Art Collection Acc. No. 543



Sylvania



The Bishop's Journey



(d. Untitled Fremantle poster design)