

**DRAFT MEDIA RELEASE
WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2008**

Unrooted

RECENT WORKS BY BERNARDO GONZALEZ

The Palm House, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney
21 January – 1 February 2009



Enter into the garden gallery of **Palm House** in Sydney's **Royal Botanic Gardens** and experience ***Unrooted***; the latest exhibition from Colombian-born Australian artist **Bernardo Gonzalez**. *Unrooted* creates a world of magic and realism. Through a collection of paintings and installation the artist explores our connection / disconnection to the land and global diaspora.

Using satellite images, the artist has created a collection of works that invite us to fly over ancient landscapes that bear the scars of invasion, namely the massacre sites at Myall Creek and Appin (NSW).

A central installation explores the healing of the land and soul, its tentacles drawing the visitor into the gallery space. Also exhibited are figurative works, depicting a dreamlike world, steeped in mythology.

Unrooted comments on the interdependence between land and people. 'Everyone in Australia is directly or indirectly the product of a global movement of people, of a global cultural broth,' says Gonzalez. 'The land and its scars are here to remind us all of the obligation we have to our children to leave them a land where there are no skeletons in the closet.'

Gonzalez is a Colombian born artist, who now lives and works near Sydney, Australia. He initially trained in painting in Bogotá, Colombia and continued his formal art education in Australia at Sydney College of the Arts (Bachelor of Arts, Grad Dip) and University of New South Wales (Master of Arts). Gonzalez's work explores themes of politics and identity. He has exhibited widely in Sydney and internationally. His work has been exhibited in the Sulman Prize at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

'Entering this exhibit is like being trapped in an unsettling nightmare'
Sydney Morning Herald's Lenny Ann Low,
on Gonzalez's Maze installation at the Tin Sheds Gallery in 2002.

SEASON DETAILS

WHAT: *Unrooted*: recent works by Bernardo Gonzales

WHERE: The Palm House, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney

WHEN: Wednesday 21 January until Sunday 1 February (from 10am to 4pm)

ENTRY: Free

MORE: www.bernardogonzalez.com.au

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