

For immediate Release
September 1, 2009

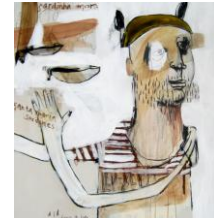
19 KAREN CELEBRATES ITS ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH 3 OUTSTANDING SOLO SHOWS



'Candyland'
JOHNNY ROMEO



'Fragments'
BENJAMIN REEVE



'Yelling at Letters'
VITOR DOS SANTOS

The Directors and the artists warmly invite you to join them for the opening night launch of solo shows by emerging artists **Vitor Dos Santos**, **Johnny Romeo** and **Benjamin Reeve** on **SEPTEMBER 26, SATURDAY from 6.00pm – 8.00pm.**

Vitor Dos Santos was born in Portugal, raised in Sydney and is now based in Brisbane. A bilingual artist who travelled throughout childhood, Vitor's new series explore his curiosities with language, travel, imagination and exploration, as well as his disenchantment with languages, communication and social hierarchies. For instance, Vitor says, the "burst word bubbles, floating letters and clumsy figures with strange hats, subtly mock their own existence. The loose line work, rapid application of paint and child-like irreverence to formal etiquette only adds to the ironic disposition of the work."

Sydney-based painter **Johnny Romeo** grew up idolizing the pin-up female denizens in glossy calendars and magazines. Teaming this inspiration with carnival connotations, collector cars and shiny candies, Johnny's first solo show in Queensland introduces a new works conveying society's sweet strive for personal happiness through aesthetic consumption. Johnny says, "I remember the posters on walls, the page 3 girls, the magazines and the calendars with a new girl every month. They were my favourite. I so looked forward to the start of each month. I never saw a pin-up I didn't like."

Benjamin Reeve's new solo show focuses on the Brisbane-based artist's long-standing interest with Japanese culture. Benjamin lived for four years in this fiercely-traditional, yet ever-evolving country, experiencing various fragmented memories as seen through the eyes of an 'other. "Touching upon these images, whether by choice or by happenstance," Benjamin explains, "reminds the viewer of past moments and emotions, smells and sounds, experiences and adventures. As time inevitably progresses, these images morph and materialise through the kaleidoscopic tunnel to the lens of the present."

19 KAREN is excited to announce that these shows mark the gallery's first year anniversary. To celebrate there will be live music and performances, with the three artists present. 19 KAREN was founded by Mariam Arcilla and Terri Lew as a proactive response towards the lack of exhibition resources on the Gold Coast, as well as recognizing the importance of providing early career artists with avenues and support to produce, showcase and progress with their practice.

To receive high-res artwork images, CV and bios for the above artists, or info on 19 KAREN please contact the gallery on info@19karen.com.au or 07 55545 019

Gallery 1 > 'Yelling at Letters' by **VITOR DOS SANTOS** [Download E-Invite](#) | [View Gallery](#)
Gallery 2 > 'Fragments' by **BENJAMIN REEVE** [Download E-Invite](#) | [View Gallery](#)
Gallery 3 > 'Candyland' by **JOHNNY ROMEO** [Download E-Invite](#) | [View Gallery](#)

EXHIBITION PERIOD: September 26 – October 17, 2009

OPENING NIGHT LAUNCH: Saturday September 26 | 6-8pm

Drinks, canapes and music provided | Parking Avail. @ Pacific Square parking lot, GC H'way | RSVP by: Sept 24 via [email](mailto:info@19karen.com.au) or phone

19 KAREN is open to the public 6 days a week. [Click for directions.](#)