

84 - 86 HENDERSON ROAD, ALEXANDRIA N.S.W. 2015

STUDIO / EXHIBITING FACILITY

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28 June 1984

FOR ARTWORKERS NEWS

RE ART UNIT ADDRESSES POINTS OF CONCERN.

On Tuesday night the 19th of June 84 Art Unit requested from the Artworkers Union General Meeting attention to some very serious concerns that we felt should be raised. The questions were given over to funding priorities, particularly to the increasing funding of administrations and organisations with the resultant decline in funding to individual artists and non-institutional groups of artists.

These concerns were published by Art Unit in our June 84 newsletter 'COMMUNIQUE 20'. The core issue that we have raised represents the biggest threat to the individual artist and artworker. The overwhelming domination of funding by institutions/ organisations (now estimated at 90% of Visual Arts Board funding) has led to a scenario of discrimination against individual artists. Given that this discrimination continues unchecked throughout the eighties the stranglehold on funding by institutions & organisations will produce a 'ministry of mediocrity'. In such a scenario there is no room for the new, the developmental or the radical for these are things that are done not lobbied for. Various lobby groups now have a defacto relationship to the Visual Arts Board, including N.A.V.A. , C.A.S.D., C.A.S.A. ??? all of which represent their member organisations for increasing funding for their expanding administrations. How many other lobby groups are there out there? This scenario is not related to only the Visual Arts Board but in fact extends across all boards of the Australia Council. In terms of individual artists and artworkers within the visual arts the only body that can represent and redress these issues is the Artworkers Union , given that it remains objective to pressure politics and pursues this issue as its first priority as a matter of urgency. As individual artworkers and artists, silence and apathy make you an accomplice to your own continued disadvantage and discrimination in funding, it is your responsibility to urge the union to effectively pursue these concerns.

Rob McDonald/Juillee Pryor
ART UNIT

please reprint section of Communiqué 20 : 'Art Unit closing down indefinitely'