



# INTRODUCTION

Louise Edwards

In 2004 the Australian Research Council established 24 Research Networks, including the ARC Asia Pacific Futures Research Network (ARC-APFRN). Their goal is to enhance cooperation among researchers to create vibrant new research synergies. The ARC-APFRN builds upon Australia's internationally recognized research excellence in Asia Pacific studies and our goal is to ensure that the high quality of this output continues in a new generation of researchers. We also endeavour to strengthen the links between universities and the broader community.

Each year the ARC-APFRN focuses on a specific theme.

In 2005 we explored governance and security within a series of events broadly titled 'Towards a Secure Future in the Asia Pacific'.

The artists featured in 'Future Tense' invite us to consider key questions about global security from important new perspectives. The impact of increasing fear, real or imagined, has significant ramifications for the nature and quality of connections between people and between governments. The quantum of human trust in the world diminishes as

discussion about security threats increases. Differences between individuals or cultures are often presented as sources of tension rather than cause for celebration. The diverse artistic works presented in this exhibition challenge us to consider the importance of valuing the innate human dignity and of striving for social justice. They encourage us to nurture trust rather than fear, and make us aware of the generative powers of cultural diversity. The artists showcased in 'Future Tense' point us to a future of less, not more, tension.

The Visual and Performing Arts sector can both reflect community concerns and promote change in unique and important ways. On this basis the ARC-APFRN is proud to sponsor 'Future Tense' and congratulates the artists and their curators, Associate Professors Caroline Turner (ANU), Pat Hoffie (Griffith) and Simon Wright, on presenting a stimulating and provocative collection of works.

Louise Douglas  
Convener  
ARC Asia Pacific Future Research  
Network  
[www.sueztosuva.org.au](http://www.sueztosuva.org.au)