

Keith
HARING

October 10th to November 17th, 1985



Keith Haring, *Untitled* 1984, ink on paper, 122 x 86 cm, Melbourne

Keith Haring in Australia

In February 1984, as its inaugural project, the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art brought American artist, Keith Haring, to Australia for a period of about four weeks.

During this time, Haring executed three very large-scale public drawings: the large glass water wall at the National Gallery of Victoria, an entire wall of the main temporary exhibitions gallery at the Art Gallery of N.S.W. and the side of a building at Collingwood Technical School. In addition, he worked on smaller projects, such as a piece for the Hardware Club in Melbourne, a "guardian angel" drawing on a wall at Glamorgan, a suburban primary school (there were also numerous chalkboard drawings done secretly at night - in much the same spirit as he still makes the chalk drawings in the subways of New York), a body painting for the Fashion Design Council of Australia's Moomba fashion event, and various "unscheduled" works - many of which can still be seen on the pylons of the railway bridge near Punt Road in Melbourne.

That Haring was able to complete all of this in less than

a month and at the same time agree to be the subject of a demanding 50-minute documentary film about his Australian visit is extraordinary and a tribute to his ferocious energy, personal enthusiasm and generosity. That he also found time to produce a small number of paintings and drawings in the studio is miraculous.

At that time, of course, the ACCA existed in name only and had no gallery space of its own. It was always intended then that this small group of individual pieces - many making use of Australian motifs: kangas, Moomba and so on - should be kept and exhibited at a later date. And here they are, together with a marvellous set of silkscreen prints executed in 1983 just before his visit, testimony both to Haring's own prodigious talent and his role as a major precursor of the East Village phenomenon in New York. Enjoy.

John Buckley
Melbourne 1985



Keith Haring at the National Gallery of Victoria
1984.



Mural at Collingwood Technical School,
Melbourne 1984.



Keith Haring at Glamorgan Primary School,
Geelong Grammar, Melbourne 1984.

KEITH HARING Born in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, 1958. Lives in New York.

CATALOGUE LISTING

Untitled 1984
Ink on paper
51.3 x 73.2
Melbourne

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Untitled 1984
Ink on paper
86 x 122
Melbourne

Untitled 1984
Ink on paper
86 x 122
Melbourne

Untitled 1984

Untitled 1983
Silkscreen on paper
106.5 x 127
New York
Courtesy Roslyn Oxley 9

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Silkscreen on paper
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CATALOGUE NOTES