



5 October 2009

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### ***'LOST'* BY IRENE BRIANT**

The Carnegie Gallery is proud to exhibit new work by Tasmanian sculptural installation artist Irene Briant.

The exhibition has a semi narrative theme based on the extraordinary survival of a woman who became lost in the dense bushland of North-Eastern Tasmania for nine days in 1908. Briant creates a fantasy world in which the materials she utilises are intertwined with a metaphorical and psychological formal space driven by the search for identity.

The Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman Rob Valentine, observes, "The stories of individuals being lost in the bush has played a significant role in the development of the Australian character. The initial experience of this country by non-indigenous settlers was one of an environment alien to their home lands. That the colonial images brought to this country, for instance, sat uncomfortably with what the early settlers experienced of their surroundings is well known. Irene Briant's work plays with this mis-match of representation and actual experience."

Irene Briant has exhibited nationally for over thirty years and has developed a distinctive style imbued with, as Sean Kelly writes in his catalogue essay for *Lost*, the "extraordinary sensitivity she has for the correlation between a material and an idea." More recently Briant was awarded a PhD from the University of Tasmania, School of Art, culminating in her exhibition submission, *Resplendent*, 2007, in which her premise "that a dressed person is visualised and understood as one coherent image, was explored. The fragile disembodied dress-forms that appeared in this exhibition are revisited in *Lost* but with greater complexity."

The two different perspectives of the lost woman searching and of those searching for her, allow for a fusion of history and imagery as their paths intersect. As Briant writes, “Imaginary maps of the route taken by both parties also become links.”

*Lost* will be officially opened by Sean Kelly, Director of the Moonah Arts Centre, at 6pm on Thursday 8 October and continues until Sunday 15 November.

**Note for Media-**

The artists will be available to meet the media on **8 October at 11am** in the Carnegie Gallery, 16 Argyle St, Hobart.

For interview contact- Alderman Rob Valentine-Lord Mayor  
0418 127 323

For further enquiries please contact Hobart City Council's Cultural Development Coordinator, Ben Booth on 03 6238 2778