



DIVERSITY . . . from left, Leah Shelton, Fez Fa'anana and Lisa Fa'alafi, founders of Polytoxic, in *Framed* by Polytoxic and Chantal Fraser, and inset, one of Paul Bong's works

**T**HIS week's opening of the Queensland Art Gallery's Asia-Pacific Triennial is the biggest event in Queensland's visual arts calendar for many years.

Not only will the occasion see the ribbon cut on the brand new Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) at South Bank, it is also the launch of the Art Gallery's flagship exhibition, the Asia-Pacific Triennial.

The Fifth APT — a major international event — is also inspiring local artists from Aboriginal, Asian and Pacific backgrounds to exhibit their work in an independent exhibition at South Brisbane's Raw Space Galleries called The Other APT.

Featuring more than 20 mainly local contemporary artists, the exhibition shows how wide the diversity of Brisbane's visual arts scene is.

The Other APT is curated by acclaimed local artist Jenny Fraser, whose own practice draws on new technologies and film.

"This is the only international art event in Brisbane that people will travel to," Fraser says. "We're being the opposite of the APT: where they fly international artists to Brisbane, we're saying that there are so many local cultures in our country."

Fraser questions whether Australia's indigenous art and culture is being ignored in the rush towards what she calls the "new exotic" of Asia-Pacific exhibitions and festivals.

"Do you think that Aboriginal artists could be included in the recent new frontier exploration of 'Asian' or 'Pacific' exhibitions in their own country?" she pointedly asks.

"The Other APT also uncovers a fertile mix of artforms, where dance and music can collide with the visual image and new technologies."

Noted artist Djon Mundine has contributed not an artwork but an essay entitled *Towards a Digital Dreaming*, and Archie Moore has sampled and re-arranged S.T. Gill's 1840's painting *Flinders Range, near Mt Brown*.

Meanwhile, acclaimed local dance troupe Polytoxic has teamed up with exciting young artist Chantal Fraser to exhibit *Framed*, a mixed media piece that examines the movement of the human form in the visual frame.

Polytoxic are fresh from a sold-out season of their dance show *Teulia Postcards* at the Brisbane Powerhouse's Afrika-Pacifika Festival and relish the opportunity to collaborate.

"It just makes sense to be in dialogue, being contemporary Pacific artists," says Polytoxic principal Fez Fa'anana.

"The aesthetic stays true to Polytoxic's work."

**The Other APT with Paul Bong, Djon Mundine, Jenny Fraser, Archie Moore, Polytoxic, Chantal Fraser and more. Raw Space Galleries, 99 Melbourne St, South Brisbane. Today until January 23, 2007**

