

MEDIA RELEASE

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mga
monash gallery of art

Christopher KÖLLER **Gardens (1997-2007)**

Monash Gallery of Art
06 April 2007 – 13 May 2007

> Opening 6pm Tuesday 17 April, 2007
by **Paul Bangay**
Garden Designer



Christopher KÖLLER
Disneyland, Paris 1998
Type C Print.

Reproduced courtesy of Christopher Koller and M.33

Gardens (1997–2007) is an exhibition of photographic images from Köller's 10-year fascination with gardens. Since 1996 Köller has been using a plastic toy camera - a *Diana* - and large format colour film to produce strange and unpredictable images in locations such as Kyoto Japan, Lake Maggiore in Italy, and Ararat in rural Victoria.

For Köller the garden becomes a place of light and shadow, distorted colours and shifting perspectives. His technique of using the toy camera distorts the image just enough to carry the viewer into a fictional dream-like space of the imagination, and in doing so links the act of observation to the strange imagined worlds of childhood.

As Nanette carter notes in her catalogue essay “ *There is always something about the viewpoint and technique in Köller's garden series that makes viewers feel that they are lifted out of their everyday perspective; we are forced to re-orient ourselves according to an unfamiliar system. It is seeing anew, in the manner of another species. We are required to slow down, to stop, to wonder at the construction of the world we're shown.*”

SUNDAY 22 APRIL 2.00pm - MEET THE PHOTOGRAPHER: hear Christopher talk about his photographic practice
SUNDAY 06 MAY 2.00pm - EDNA WALLING'S MAWARRA with Christopher Köller and Jess Exiner. Join Jess Exiner, owner of The Grove (formerly Mawarra) who will talk about the magnificent 3.5-acre garden designed by Edna Waling. Christopher Köller will talk about the garden which features in his current exhibition at MGA.

Christopher Köller has been exhibiting in Australia, Europe, Japan and Mexico since 1980. He is currently Head of Photography at the Victoria College of Arts. Christopher Köller is represented by Gallery M.33

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Tue-Fri: 10am-5pm, Sat-Sun: 12pm-5pm, Mon/public holidays: closed

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