

## **Erica Seccombe**

Brief/Working title of proposal:

New body of work with 3D micro-computed x-rays

Summary of proposal:

The objective of my project is to develop a new body of digital projections using miniature plastic animals that have been micro-computed x-rayed and animated in a scientific 3D volume rendering program, for exhibition at Canberra Contemporary Art Space.

My project involves the Tomograph (XTC) Facility at the ANU Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering. Beginning in September 2007, I will have unlimited access to this facility's technology as a Research Fellow.

The XTC facility enables scientists to examine the structure of material samples – such as rock, bone and fossil – at nano-scale. I will micro x-ray my collection of over 50 plastic replicas of mammals, fish and marine crustaceans that are no bigger than 3cm each – toys from the Yowie chocolate brand.

In conjunction with the XTC facility, a custom-designed high-resolution 3D rendering program, called 'Drishti' will allow me to view the replicas' tiny interior structures, to manipulate its density and to rotate volume 360 degrees in a virtual space.

How this project aims to explore new thinking:

My project is dedicated to a process of original conceptual and technical thinking. The work that I'm planning to produce has required that I seek equipment and software that is rarely, if ever, used by artists. My growing relationship with the scientific community at the ANU has already borne results – a concept that is well outside what could be described as 'normal' artistic activity.

In representing hypothetical research, this technology is critical to the examination of contemporary visual arts issues such as authenticity, simulation and visualisation. My use of ready made replicas transcends the scientific and technological rationalism of the original media and thus the work is firmly positioned at the latter end of a Pop Art trajectory that includes new media experimentation.

My project will re-evaluate issues established in Minimalism and Pop Art, and extend them to include a level of contemporary currency. My use of banal found objects, such as the Yowie, generates an interesting collision of mass popular culture with elite artistic and scientific pursuits.