

## PRESS RELEASE

### First Degree

Curated by Daniel Mudie Cunningham

Artists: Lisa Andrew, Drew Bickford, Luis Martinez, Elvis Richardson

Chrissie Cotter Gallery

Pidcock St, Camperdown

Exhibition dates: 12-23 October 2005

Gallery Hours: Wed-Sun, 11-4pm

Opening night: Friday 14 October, 6-8 pm.

*First Degree* showcases four contemporary artists whose work negotiates themes of violence, crime, terror, first-degree murder and media sensationalism. Violence and crime are pervasive and taken-for-granted facets of everyday life, and especially at present, where the anxieties of human and nature-inflicted terror loom large. As we are often situated at a safe distance from that which might cause harm, attitudes to violence and crime often oscillate between numbness and fascination.

Contemporary art is often used as a vehicle for critiquing the processes by which violence and crime come to be culturally and socially constructed as a media spectacle. For Chrissie Cotter Gallery's *First Degree*, **Drew Bickford** has created a series of illustrations based on Katherine Knight, an Australian abattoir worker who in 2000 murdered, skinned, decapitated and cooked her lover. **Lisa Andrew's** installation refers to a murder from the perspective of someone related to her: the murderer. **Elvis Richardson** shows how we view crime as entertainment in an installation made up entirely of VHS tapes. And **Luis Martinez** engages with the mediated nature of violence by painting lurid acts of crime sourced from cheesy B-grade horror films.

An illustrated catalogue will be available at the exhibition or upon request.

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*First Degree* is proudly sponsored by *An Inspector Calls*, a forthcoming **Star City** production.

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