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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Cell”

Works by Fiona Dalwood
11 Feb – 1 March 2009

Melbourne: “Cell” is the latest offering of digital art photography by Melbourne-based artist Fiona Dalwood. At the Fitzroy 69 Smith Street Gallery, Dalwood, following recent “Bound” and “Nasty” exhibitions, continues her exploration of tactile history and ephemeral trace by documenting prisons.

Images of Dalwood’s visit to San Francisco’s infamous Alcatraz prison are combined with moody institutions including historic J-Ward asylum & gaol in Ararat.

“I wish to raise questions about how we perceive insanity and criminality,” says Dalwood, “by looking closely at places where people spent entire lifetimes incarcerated. There is a history of institutional cruelty in the way we treat unwanted citizens.

“This work looks at the ways we influence our environment, imbuing our living spaces with memory and narrative. I have visited many now-defunct prisons and mental asylums, places some may say are haunted with bad memories and restless spirits. Walking through them elicits a sense of reverence and a desire to make no sound and leave no imprint on walls steeped with violent history. Though no longer in use, what remains in these places is an undeniable sense of isolation, both physical and emotional, as experienced by the inmates who lived there and those charged with their care.”



Fiona Dalwood has been practising art since her graduation from VCA in 1999. Often collaborating with other artists including Shannon Hourigan and Lauren Olney, her work has been shown and published internationally. This is her first solo show in Melbourne.

“Cell” opens 11 February – 1 March 2009. The official opening is 14 February 2009 from 4 – 6 pm.

For further information, please call the artist, Fiona Dalwood on 0404 655 423, email fi@egenerica.com or ring the exhibition coordinator, Michèle Meister on 0424 625 336 (email info@69smithstreet.com.au)

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Cell

Exhibition Dates: 11 Feb – 01 March 2009
Opening: 14 Feb 4-6pm
Gallery: 69 SMITH STREET GALLERY, 69 Smith Street, Fitzroy Vic 3065
Phone: 0424 625 336
Email: info@69smithstreet.com.au
Web: www.69smithstreet.com.au
Gallery hours: Wed – Sat 11-5pm, Sunday 12-5pm