

MEDIA RELEASE

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mga
monash gallery of art

Janina Green: maid in Hong Kong

>12 FEBRUARY 2008 – 10 MARCH, 2009

>to be opened by Dr Shaune Lakin, Director MGA
3.00 PM SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY, 2009



Image: Janina Green
Maid in Hong Kong (detail)
hand-coloured gelatin silver print
Courtesy of the artist and M.33

MONASH Gallery of Art is proud to present the exhibition *Maid in Hong Kong* by Janina Green. This exhibition provides a compelling study of international workers, taken by one of Melbourne's leading contemporary photographers.

Since 2003, Green has travelled to Hong Kong to research and photograph the lives of the city's large population of Filipino maids. These hard-working women gather in public spaces around the city as a reprieve from their domestic duties. Green photographs these women, fascinated by the study of femininity that such social gatherings of women affords.

Green's photographs are a moving witness to the global flow of workers. In Hong Kong, labour shortages and the breakdown of the extended family system have led to the demand for foreign servants – "the help". In Hong Kong the majority of foreign servants or maids come from the Philippines.

As with Green's previous work, the exhibition includes large black-and-white prints hand-coloured with pigmented inks. The process is time-consuming, delicate and a personal response to images of a resilient femininity in a fragmented world.

MGA curator Stephen Zagala says of Green's exhibition " *This is a wonderful opportunity for people to see a series of striking photographs that tell us a lot about the contemporary world.*"

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Zooming in: Artist's talk with Janina Green
3.00pm Friday 27 February 2009
Bookings essential: T 03 9562 1569



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

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