



## DELILAH VAN WYK

EXHIBITION DATES 18 - 28 September 2013



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

# Trek:

art and the experience of migration







With warm respects to the family and friends of Delilah Van Wyk, the University of Newcastle Gallery is honoured to present *Trek: art and the experience of migration*, an exhibition of Delilah's art work.

Drawing inspiration of her own migration from South Africa, the clay sculptures explore the difficult journey faced by migrants in leaving home to establish new roots in a distant country and the universal meaning of home.

Delilah describes the contrast of Western and African home through the familiar ritual of a family meal:

*Porridge was the staple diet of each family; how we as 'Western society' prepared and partook of ours, within a few metres of an African family sharing theirs, left a profound impression on my mind that remains crystal clear to this day. The comparison of even the simple act of eating porridge is, to me, a clear indication of the importance of acknowledging the cultural differences and complexities of society today.*

*This was a moment where I realised that home has different forms but may have similar meanings for everyone and that any differences require respect.*

*For me my new Home in Australia, 'our little place in the sun' is a three quarter acre block in the middle of suburbia. It is our haven and a place where past and present lives comfortably together. In my garden natives of Australia and South Africa, exotics and hybrids jostle to shine amidst a random tangle of plants and weeds. My garden also holds memories of family, friends and places where cuttings have been shared and generated. My garden is also a place where objects from my past share space with my art works.*

*My art, my home and my garden are truly an extension of me.*

Delilah Van Wyk



DELILAH VAN WYK

*Trek:*  
art and the  
experience  
of migration