



23May 2008

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: I Love Pho Touring Exhibition

Kultour's vision is to support talented culturally diverse artists and we aim to increase awareness of Australian multicultural arts through touring. Kultour believes in the right of every artist and every citizen to freedom of expression in particular for multicultural artists, many of whom are dealing with issues that can be seen as controversial within Australian society today. Issues such as displacement, war, treatment of refugees and on a more positive but sometimes difficult note, adapting to life in a new homeland give rise to much of the subject matter of our artists today.

Art may challenge a community but art can also break down the barriers for communities. Kultour believes in understanding difference through discussion and negotiation of different points of view.

I Love Phở artist Mai Long, is proud of her Vietnamese and Australian heritage and has explored the subject of cultural diversity in her work for many years. The exhibition I Love Phở explores identity in a refreshing and creative manner.

One of the artist's long-term goals involves linking so-called folk art methods that are imbued with meaningful imaginings, rituals, histories, and stories to the contemporary art world with a level of sophistication that speaks to as broad an audience as possible. Any discourse created by the work is very healthy in a democratic society and can lead to a deeper understanding of the complexities of migration and identity.

Kultour supports and respects the rights of communities and artists to express their views without fear or recrimination. We support the democratic right to freedom of speech.

We are supportive of the artist Mai Long and her work within the I Love Phở exhibition and do not support the censorship of the work in any form. Mai Long's work is of an exceptionally high standard.

Yours faithfully

Jill Morgan
Deputy Chair, Kultour