

# Words Unspoken

## W Collective

**Wan Ki An, Monica Bodirsky, Martina Edmondson, Vanessa Li,  
Koeun Park, Hoi Yee Wong**

July 17 – August 30, 2008  
At the Latcham Gallery

*Maura Broadhurst*  
*Curator*

The title of this exhibition *Words Unspoken* conjures a variety of images, experiences and memories in all of us. We think of moments when words are too difficult to say, when things are left unsaid or when no words are necessary. These are all ideas and themes that are present in the work by these six artists in the W Collective as they explore their family relationships. As a collective they have united to support each other, challenge each other's ideas and work together on projects. Every year they have chosen a particular issue that each of them experiences in their lives and addresses in their work. They create new work based around the theme, forming a unified yet diverse body of work that gives viewers a richness of interpretations and a variety of perspectives from which to consider the subject.

Looking to her family history, at the things that were discussed and those that were not, Monica Bodirsky offers a series of small canvases that are pieced together to give glimpses into her life. Using photos, fabric and stitching, Bodirsky layers and overlaps images and using the technique of mending that has been present in her life since childhood, she patches the images together. By dyeing the cloth earthy greens and browns, the canvases look aged, weathered and worn. The patching makes one think of old clothing that needs repair and the frayed edges of the silk makes the photos look forgotten or overlooked. Each canvas evokes old stories and with titles like *Hello from Nova Scotia* and *Survivor* act as postcards from the past. But these postcards are being written in different times simultaneously. This body of work further questions the assumption of truth that is told in factual stories that follow a linear chronology. In her work, Bodirsky disrupts the chronology, bringing past and present together, overlapping the two and blurring the line between them and consequently questions the assumptions of truth and opens up these stories for new interpretations and new life.

*Excerpt from Maura Broadhurst's Curatorial Statement*