

# Art right now!

Discovery Media is an Australian electronic education publisher, already known for AVAD (the Australian Visual Arts Databases on CD-ROM). It has recently issued a new publication, *Art right now*, featuring 450 works by 48 contemporary Australian artists.

The work of these artists, chosen from the best and most exciting of the current crop, covers a wide variety of media: paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures, 3-D forms and installations.

The multimedia CD-ROM is compatible with Macintosh and Windows platforms. Installing it involves no more than putting it into the CD-ROM player and (in the case of Windows only) dragging the control file into the Windows folder.

A click of the mouse then opens it to a main menu with

five large buttons labelled *artists*, *themes*, *test*, *your slide show* and *credits*. Another click on, say, *artists* and you find rows of slide-sized pictures, each representing one artist.

Another click on the slide of your choice and you have a new screen displaying the artist's 'folio': background, shows and a discussion of their work.

*Themes* offers Aboriginal artists (eleven are represented), Abstract, Feminist, Figurative and Installation artists.

Most of the text has been written by noted art experts but in a few cases the artists have written their own commentary. Ten of the artists have recorded interviews, also only a mouse-click away.

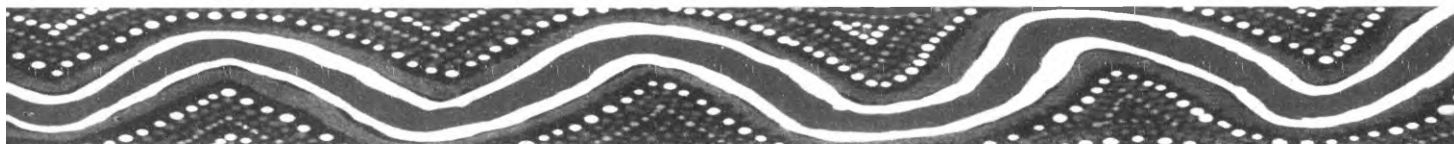
Colour and clarity are excellent. The text in each case occupies half the screen, with the

other half carrying the first of the works by that artist.

Up to ten works are included for each artist and these can be stepped through at your own speed. A click on the half-size picture zooms it to occupy the full screen, with no loss of quality. If you wish, you can have the pictures scroll past as a 'slide show', automatically or under manual control.

This CD-ROM is an effective resource for both teaching and reference purposes. Its RRP is \$195 educational (\$295 general), and a special schools multiple purchase price of \$395 for the 5-CD pack and \$495 for the 10-CD pack, from Discovery Media, PO Box 263, Woollahra NSW 2025, tel: (02) 369 4314; fax (02) 369 2276. ISBN 1 875619 33 X.

Peter Judge?



## Viewpoint on books for young adults

This journal, published by the Division of Library and Information Studies, Institute of Education, University of Melbourne, provides an arena for thoughtful and provocative discussion of young adult fiction.

The views of professionals in the field, parents and importantly young adults are broadly represented.

The articles focus on analysis and interpretation of fiction for young adults; discourse on issues concerning their reading; and suggests ideas and strategies for promoting and using young adult literature in the classroom and elsewhere.

As well as the regular section devoted to reviews, longer in-depth commentaries and appraisals of selected novels and critical

works also are featured and a useful calendar of forthcoming events is included. Each quarterly issue contains an author and title index of books cited and reviewed.

As stated in the editorial of the first issue of the journal, young adult fiction is a 'rich and growing field'. The proliferation of talented authors of the genre in Australia and New Zealand is indicative of this trend, so it is timely that this new journal is devoting much space to the promulgation and interpretation of their work.

As part of this process the author interviews and personal contributions are of particular interest in building up composite profiles of these writers.

While there is an excellent representation of Australian authors, those from overseas have not been

forgotten. There is still a good balance of reviews and features that present the overseas view.

The style of the articles is scholarly but approachable and informative for the lay reader. Although the content will be of interest nationally and internationally, several of the articles that focus on the educational application of young adult fiction expressly refer to the VCE curriculum.

This journal should attract a wide readership but it will be of particular interest to professionals who work with young adults in the library and education fields.

Students in these disciplines will acquire an understanding of the contemporary issues and trends which drive this vigorous genre.

Mandy Cheetham?