

GRANARY TRANSFORMED

Housed in the old Jackson's Granary in Brisbane's Petrie Terrace, the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) is now in its second year in these premises.

Despite the fact the Granary ceased operation some 20 years ago, old habits die hard. Director of the Museum, James Baker, says the occasional truck still pulls up at the front entrance looking for stocks of grain, seed or hay. "They are disappointed and often dismayed, to find paintings and sculpture where they had expected to buy chicken feed!"

Despite disappointing these truck-driving members of the public, the Museum has given Brisbane its first venue



devoted exclusively to the collection and display of contemporary art. James Baker says that after its relocation from its original Melbourne Street premises in South Brisbane, the Museum's audiences are

now building to previous levels. Within the Granary, the Museum's neighbours include Michael Milburn Galleries and The Loading Bay, a small gallery available to artists without commercial gallery

representation.

The Museum's exhibitions program changes monthly and an art rental service is also available for those interested in developing a 'mini-MOCA' within their own homes and offices.

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BUSH CREATURES

Peter and Arlene Delahenty see themselves as artists racing against the clock of wildlife extinction. "Native flora and fauna becomes extinct daily. In 50 years time the only memory of a certain bird or animal may be through the efforts of wildlife artists like ourselves," Peter says.

At their Bush Creatures Gallery at Olinda, in Victoria's Dandenong Ranges, the Delahentys create highly detailed and painted ceramic sculptures which are eerily realistic. "Special glazes give the right sheen to a beak or give a dull, buttery appearance to skin on paws. The effect of feathers and fur are etched in with dental tools," Arlene explains.

The collection includes everything from wombats and koalas to Major Mitchell cockatoos. Each piece is mounted on mallee root (dwarf eucalyptus root from the desert regions of north western Victoria).