

## **Kok Wai Chai**

Bachelor of Visual Arts

*Contained Open Spaces*

In today's world we are surrounded by contained open spaces. We are given the illusion that the world is one vast space for us to go out and explore, but in reality this space of the world is actually full of constraints and contained spaces. You can't always see them and up until now may not even be aware of their existence, but they are there, everywhere, creating this wonderful world that we live in. These aspects build upon each other creating layers, supporting each other and all they surround. Planet earth, the solar system, the entire universe make up these *Contained Open Spaces*, protective and nurturing and a vital part of our existence on the planet.

Your home, your garden, the suburb that you live in, each is its own contained open space. At the same time these areas mould together to form a larger open space that is still contained. Each space is unique and different, though similarities can always be found. Each space coexists creating the foundation for the other. Remove an open space and the structure will start to rupture and eventually fall to pieces.

In a rainforest, such as the Darwin Botanical Gardens, the tops of the trees create a canopy which contain the space below it. The canopy acts as a protective barrier from the sun for the smaller plants and animals. It also aids in the development and sustainability of a greater area because the leaves of the trees absorb carbon dioxide in the air and transform it into oxygen that we breathe.

By cutting down the trees, or damaging the surrounding environment, the contained spaces are no longer "contained". Without the trees, the canopy would no longer be there to protect and nurture.



*Contained Open Spaces*  
Mixed media  
2005  
100cm x 125cm x 125cm

