

The Write/here Project

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hobart, December 2006

\$1 Story Shop Saturday December 16 50 Melville Street

(Between Jimmy's Skate Shop and B&B Electrical)

Between 11am and 4pm this Saturday, artists Justy Phillips and James Newitt will open the \$1 Story Shop. Rather than selling anything, Justy and James are asking people to share their personal stories about life in Hobart, and in return the \$1 story shop will hand over a shiny one dollar coin. On Saturday only, shoppers can sell their thoughts to Justy and James by writing them down in the shop, recording them on video, or simply by talking to the artists on the day. The shop is hard to miss, with bright blue letting, boldly advertising the cash offer on the shop's windows. Justy and James hope to be busy all day, swapping dollar coins for revealing, humorous and intimate stories from casual passers-by.

What's this all about?

The \$1 Story Shop is part of a larger project Justy and James have been developing over the last 18 months called the write/here project. The write/here project will be installed across every billboard in central Hobart during next year's Ten Days on the Island Festival. This ambitious project offers Tasmanians the opportunity to share their personal thoughts about life in our capital city. Imagine waking up one morning to a city free from billboard advertising. Each billboard will host a single narrative text - a personal response to life in Hobart written by someone who calls this city home.

Find out more information from the project website: **www.writehereproject.org**

James Newitt and Justy Phillips are Tasmanian-based artists who have collaborated on a number of site-specific projects; including Isolated Places, Tasmanian Living Artists Week 2005, and Come With Me, an installation of art, words and sound, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, 2006. Through these collaborative projects, the artists are developing an engaging body of work; exploring narrative, fiction, and notions of intervention; through Video, text-works and site-specific installation. Both artists hold academic positions at the Tasmanian School of Art. Justy Phillips, is a Lecturer in Graphic Design, and James Newitt is a Tutor in Graphic Design and current Postgraduate Higher Degree student.

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