

**Originally Presented at the Ian Potter Gallery for Next Wave Festival 1994**

Alternative Realities:  
Australian Artists  
Working with Technology  
**Curator Rachel Kent**

Then presented for Asialink's touring program: *Bright Sparks*

**Artists**

Peter Callas, Moira Corby, Ross Harley, Rosemary Laing,  
Patricia Piccinini

**Partner**

The University of Melbourne Museum of Art, Melbourne  
**Tour** Hong Kong, Melbourne, Shanghai, Beijing, Seoul, Taipei,  
Tamsui, **Kaohsiung**, Bangalore, Chandigarh (1995-1996)



**From the Asialink Publication**  
**“Every 23 Days: 20 Years Touring Asia”**

*Alternative Realities* was the longest running *Bright Sparks* exhibition. Focusing on artists working with new media was in these early days, the mid 1990s, considered groundbreaking.

Mark Napier of the Australian Consulate General in Shanghai reporting *‘the exhibition left a particularly deep impression as there has not previously been anything like this in here before.’*

The words of curator Rachel Kent found resonance throughout the region.

She wrote *‘these artists explore in different ways the possibilities, as well as the limitations, of technology in their work. The impact of technology upon the body, the urban landscape and the shaping of history is considered, while a critical look is cast at the darker side of technological progress.’*

[http://www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/our\\_work/arts/publications/every\\_23\\_days\\_20\\_years\\_touring\\_asia](http://www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/our_work/arts/publications/every_23_days_20_years_touring_asia)

At Next Wave Festival 1994 we were proud to see such curators as Rachel respond so well to our new “Art & Technology Program”.

After the initial presentation for the Festival the tour began across Asia with Asialink. A number of maintenance curators were brought in to install and open the exhibition as it toured. Rachel kindly asked me to oversee the installation and opening event in Kaohsiung. I also spent time in Taipei visiting artist run initiatives with the help of the Australian Cultural Office. Activities in the artist run movement in Taiwan mirrored the culture of the time in Melbourne. I then began to think of ways to extend longer term links for the subsequent two Next Wave events.