

## ***New Internationalism : An Emerging Concept***

- 1 In the mainstream of the visual arts 'International' has become a term synonymous only with Western Europe and the USA. This limiting Western / Eurocentric definition has meant that in practice the vast majority of the world's cultures (including minority cultures with western states) have been excluded from exhibitions and from the history of art.
- 2 'New internationalism' addresses this discrepancy by placing the achievements of the majority cultures of the world into the discourses, the exhibitions and the history of contemporary visual arts.
- 3 More importantly it offers the visual perceptions, the philosophies and histories of non-European and majority cultures as new and challenging contributions to the mainstream of the visual arts.
- 4 Essentially it reflects a changing moment in art history, resulting from post-war migration and the shifting of cultural and ideological boundaries. It is subject to evolutionary change and therefore cannot be narrowly defined or fixed, principally because it reflects this transitional moment in history.
- 5 It has emerged as a concept which poses questions to the world of art and its audience about the nature, their perception and interpretation of contemporary art practice.
- 6 It aims to bring the issues of cultural difference and cultural hybridity into the dominant discourse as a vital contribution to the development of visual art in the twenty first century.
- 7 'New Internationalism' is not exclusive. It will not disregard the achievements of Western Europe and the USA. Neither does it seek a negative confrontation with Western eurocentric art history. It desires instead to broaden our understanding of the history of art beyond the narrow confines of the past.
- 8 'New Internationalism' embraces the concept of 'Black Art' because it hinges upon a cross-fertilisation of views in the contemporary visual arts. However it allows artist's a choice, a subjective decision-making process based on personal experience which takes it beyond the definitions of 'Black Art'.
- 9 'New Internationalism' introduces new ways of addressing production, exhibition presentation and interpretation and will generate critical debate within the mainstream institutions with which a healthy dialogue is envisaged.