

## Media Release

Tuesday 1 May 2012

# THE ART OF SPAIN

## Group Show

9 June – 7 July 2012

Opening Night: Saturday 9 June 2012

6-8pm at 19 KAREN Contemporary Artspace



**Clare Toms**  
**Matadora – 2012**  
**Oil on Canvas**  
**40 x 50 cm**

*Hola amigos!* A Spanish art fiesta is coming to the Gold Coast in the form of *The Art of Spain* Group Show opening Saturday 9 June 2012 from 6-8pm at 19 KAREN Contemporary Artspace.

Carrying on from the tradition of the very successful *Homage to Frida*, *The Art of Spain* sees 25 of 19 KAREN's most respected emerging artists making one off pieces to the theme of Spain. Each artist is required to explore any aspect of Spain, whether it is the countries rich history or culture or its myriad of influential artists, by using their own unique style of creating.

The idea of a Spain show comes from 19 KAREN Contemporary Artspace Director Terri Lew's endless love affair with the country.

"When I sold my publishing business I decided to travel to Spain. It was my lifelong dream to visit this country to satisfy my undying curiosity of the attraction to this country," says Lew.

After spending three months of picking fresh figs off trees, exploring museums and art galleries, Spain had lived up to all of Lew's expectations and she one day plans on returning to do it all again. For now the art works of Lew's most dedicated artists from the 19 KAREN stable will bring Spain a little closer to home.

"I am very excited by the variety of the artworks and interpretations by each of the artists participating in *The Art of Spain* group show. All of the works are rich and colourful and very fitting to this title. I am blown away but to be truthful I didn't expect anything less from the hard working artists in my stable," says Lew.

Many of the artists represented by 19 KAREN have expressed their delight in the chance to be able to explore the many facets that Spain has to offer. For Johnny Romeo it was a chance to pay homage to one of his favourite artists.

"When one thinks of Spanish art, of its energy and its passion, one name immediately springs to mind: Pablo Picasso. In my latest series, 'The Four Little Girls' [for *The Art of Spain*], I pay homage to my hero Picasso, while maintaining my signature graphic style and lively colour palette," says Romeo.

Byron Bay artist Donna Sharam focused her works around Spanish architecture; in particular Antoni Gaudi.

"I have chosen to create artworks based on the architectural masterpieces of Antoni Gaudi. He was surely one of most influential architects in history and a native of Spain," says Sharam.

The Opening Night for *The Art of Spain* is Saturday 9 June 2012. We invite everyone to attend to join us in dressing up in Spanish costume and celebrating Spain with flamenco dancing, sangria, music and art! RSVP to [info@19karen.com.au](mailto:info@19karen.com.au) or call (07) 55545 019.

**-ENDS-**

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