

## **'My Tsunami'**

### **Art by Sri Lankan children who survived the 2004 Tsunami**

The twenty drawings and paintings in *My Tsunami* show the children's experience of the tsunami, its aftermath and its impact on their lives. A number of the works focus on more hopeful aspects, depicting the relief effort and rebuilding.

The art is the result of an aid project implemented by Dr Hannah Magree and Dr Claire Stewart who, as final-year medical students, spent a month assisting in camps for survivors in three small Sri Lankan villages (Akurala, Ambalangoda and Godogama) in mid-2005. During this time they initiated, with sponsorship from the Cunningham Dax Collection, a program of 'fun days' where children were encouraged to draw and paint. *"It was most important to these children that their paintings were going overseas to be shown to people who, for reasons unknown to them, cared about their lives,"* says Dr Stewart who will give a talk on *My Tsunami* on Saturday 24 March, at 1.30pm.

The tsunami occurred in December, 2004. Over two years later, many survivors may feel that they have been forgotten. This exhibition is being held to remind the Sydney community, who were so supportive at the time, that the tsunami continues to have significant impact on those in the affected regions. Scott Jessup, Manager/Curator of Mary MacKillop Place Museum said that *"this artwork is a testimony not only to the disaster and the suffering that resulted but also to the strength and hope that has sustained the people. This "innocent" artwork of children powerfully articulates what has been too painful to put into words"*.

'My Tsunami' is a travelling exhibition from The Cunningham Dax Collection, Melbourne on show at **Mary MacKillop Place Museum, 7 Mount St, North Sydney, NSW from 2 March to 29 June 2007. Open Daily 10am-4pm, closed Good Friday.**

Floor talk by Dr Claire Stewart, Saturday 24 March at 1.30pm. Phone to book on 02 8912 4878.

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**For images or more information please contact:**

Scott Jessup, Museum Manager/Curator, Mary MacKillop Place Museum  
on 02 8912 4899 or [scott.jessup@sosj.org.au](mailto:scott.jessup@sosj.org.au)

web: [www.marymackillopplace.org.au](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au)  
[www.sosj.org.au/mary/MMPMuseum.html](http://www.sosj.org.au/mary/MMPMuseum.html)