

**Media Release:**

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## **Provocative Posters Portray Territory Life in New MAGNT Exhibition**

An exhibition of provocative works made in Darwin about Darwin opens at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) on Saturday, 8 October 2011.

MAGNT Director Pierre Arpin said *Activate-Cultivate: a survey exhibition of Red Hand Prints posters* explores the art of the poster by examining the work of Red Hand Prints, an open-access printmaking studio that operated in Darwin from 1997 to 2001.

“These clever and colourful posters, drawn from MAGNT’s permanent collection, are instantly recognisable and unashamedly concerned with the politics, culture and events in Darwin during those years,” said Mr Arpin.

“Presented as a valid and significant form of art, the posters become more than just a means to inform an audience.

“They offer a brief but perceptive take on local issues and concerns, exploring not only art created in direct relation to its environment, but also what it is to be an artist in that environment.

“Like many of the exhibitions we present at MAGNT, *Activate-Cultivate* reflects the character of Darwin and the Top End, and it challenges Territorians to think about who we are, what we want and where we are going.”

The 48 works featured in the exhibition were created by Red Hand Prints founders, Franck Gohier and Shaun Poustie, as well as more than a dozen other local artists.

The printmaking studio played an important role in fostering and developing skills, programs and ideas that continue to contribute to the strength of printmaking as an art form in the Territory, while never losing sight of its local focus, content and place in the long western art tradition of collaborative political poster-making.

*Activate-Cultivate* will be on display at MAGNT until 19 February 2012 and entry to the exhibition is free.

The public is also invited to a free floor talk by Chips Mackinolty at the exhibition at 11am on Saturday, 8 October 2011.

For more information on upcoming events at MAGNT, go to [www.nt.gov.au/magnt](http://www.nt.gov.au/magnt).

Ends

**Media Note – For more information, contact Pierre Arpin on 8999 8218.**

**Images – 1. Untitled, Franck Gohier, February 1999. Hemi ink on archival system card.  
2. Untitled, Franck Gohier, April 1998. Hemi ink on cartridge paper. Image credits: Courtesy, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.**

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