

# in the realm of the censors

6 February 2004 – January 2005

*In the Realm of the Censors* provides a unique opportunity to enter the world of New South Wales censorship authorities between 1955 and 1982, via an exhibition of Australian and international publications and official records which are now part of the State archives collection.

The publications range from the low to high brow, and soft to hard core. Once they had a life of their own, out and about in the world, circulating via bookstores and sex shops, on the street and through the mail. Then they were bought, seized or submitted to censorship authorities for research, review, classification or possible prosecution.

For the last 20 years these novels, pictorials, magazines, newspapers, manuals and catalogues have been closed to the public within the State archives. *In the Realm of the Censors* opens the contents of this cultural time capsule for historical reappraisal.

Many of the publications were unrestricted or released when they were classified between 1955 and 1982. Some that were restricted then would be freely available if reviewed today. Others would continue to be restricted or refused classification.

To allow the widest possible audience to see the exhibition, State Records has referred to current classification guidelines to select material with unrestricted contents for display.

Most of the material in the State archives collection is from the 1960s and 70s — a period of great social change — and so charts the emergence and evolution of the feminist, gay and other cultural and political movements. As signs of their times, these records also show how photography, fashion and gesture combine to create historically specific bodies of desire.

*In the Realm of the Censors* is an exhibition which moves beyond the arguments for and against censorship, and allows us to 'read' culture through the records.

## STATE RECORDS GALLERY

Sydney Records Centre  
2 Globe Street (off George Street)  
The Rocks, Sydney

## FREE ENTRY

9.00 am – 5.00 pm, Monday – Friday  
10.00 am – 4.00 pm, Saturday  
closed public holidays

enquiries (02) 8247 8660

## EVENTS

see [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au) for details of The Censorship Sessions, a series of dialogues on the State, Censorship and Sex to be held at State Records Gallery on Saturdays during February FREE

Featuring David Marr, Catherine Lumby, Helen Vnuk, Kathy Bail and Fiona Giles

*In the Realm of the Censors* is produced with the financial support of the Government Records Repository (State Records' commercial business unit)

Some people might be offended by material displayed in the exhibition. Children under 18 years of age should be accompanied by an adult

