



REVOLUTIONS -FORMS THAT TURN 2008 BIENNALE OF SYDNEY

Media release – for immediate release
Wednesday, 18 June 2008

BIENNALE OF SYDNEY OPENS!

Australia's biggest art exhibition transforms Sydney for winter

A horse suspended from the roof of the Museum of Contemporary Art, a bronze-cast tree in the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Art Gallery of NSW covered in chalk drawings, large-scale video installations on Cockatoo Island: these are just some of the projects to see and experience in the 2008 Biennale of Sydney.

The exhibition opens today in seven venues clustered around the harbourside plus a world-first online venue. The city's leading galleries and spectacular outdoor sites host the visions and voices of more than 180 of the world's most exciting artists, all for free. From the quirky to the comic to the controversial, the exhibition establishes that Sydney in 2008 is the place to discover contemporary art.

Under the theme *Revolutions – Forms That Turn*, the exhibition explores the urge to rebel. The unique vision of artistic director Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev has materialised as art works have been installed over the past week, transforming the city under her watchful eye into a truly remarkable place. She says: "I think art can be experienced by everybody – whether they are someone who reads about and sees a lot of art regularly, or someone who works hard all week and simply wants to see an art show on a Sunday afternoon. The Biennale of Sydney is for everyone!"

Cockatoo Island is teeming with 35 works of art including an underground tunnel that rocks to the beat of psychedelic music, a lone voice singing 'The Internationale' in an abandoned industrial space, and a shadow play in the old air raid shelter. There's a sculptural model based on Sydney's Olympic Stadium, and **Shaun Gladwell's** new piece based on mountain bikes and inspired by **Duchamp's** famous *Bicycle Wheel* (on show at the Art Gallery of NSW).

With the generous assistance of The Balnaves Foundation and Sydney Harbour Federation Trust - a free ferry shuttle service will operate to Cockatoo Island between 9.45 AM and 16.45 AM, seven days a week. Biennale visitors can take the free ferry from Commissioners Steps (outside the MCA) around to Wharf 2 at Pier 2/3 and on to the island.

At the MCA see a horse suspended from the ceiling, a field of 1000 tiny snakes sculpted from rice husks, and **Alexander Calder's** magnificent mobiles *Hanging Spider* and *Roxbury Flurry*. A rock band of over-eighty year olds plays the Sex Pistols' version of 'God Save the Queen' and transforms a gallery space into a band drop-in centre. Australia's international art star **Tracey Moffatt** presents the world premiere of her new film *REVOLUTION*. And mother and son **Mary Kelly** and **Kellie Barry** present works including their first into which Kellie was literally born making him a living art work!

Cont...



The Art Gallery of NSW features chalk drawings across the outside of the building, and just opposite is a gleaming, full-size tree cast entirely in bronze. Inside is an extraordinary Tatlin Tower constructed from rubble of The Block and in collaboration with the Redfern community. Sit in a chair and have a chat with artist **Ross Gibson** as he analyses the art of conversation, or let it all out in an Anger Workshop with **Stuart Ringholt**.

Pier 2/3 plays host to the extraordinary *The Murder of Crows* – a massive sound-based installation made up of 100 individually programmed soundtracks on 100 speakers and a lone megaphone through which the artist speaks. Bringing an extraordinary, rich symphonic sound into the old pier, the work is a requiem to a pre-9/11 world in music, dreams and voices. This is the biggest piece ever made by internationally acclaimed Canadian duo **Janet Cardiff** and **George Bures Miller**, and one of the major new works commissioned by the Biennale of Sydney.

For true spectacle, see the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House transformed for 24 hours, into a magical forest on 9 and 10 July. While in The Studio, **Dora García** presents her 're-imagining' of the notorious Lenny Bruce comedy performance of the 1960s. And don't miss the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see legendary New York performance artist **Joan Jonas** at the Cell Block Theatre, National Art School on 22 June.

At Artspace come on a journey to Utopia or witness our collective behaviours captured on film by UK art star **Jeremy Deller** in his new project for the Biennale of Sydney, *I'm with this Idiot*.

Combining key works of the past century with the best in contemporary art today, the Biennale of Sydney celebrates 35 years as Sydney's trail-blazing showcase of contemporary art. With more than 180 artists and 65 new works, it is truly a world of art, here, now.

The 2008 Biennale of Sydney opens Wednesday, 18 June and runs until Sunday, 7 September.

GENERAL INFO: For more information about the exhibition, venues, Cockatoo Island and complete list of events go to: www.bos2008.com.

MEDIA: Updated media releases and information is available in the Media Room of the Biennale website.

Media enquiries:

Imogen Corlette E: imogencorlettepr@gmail.com T: +612 9337 5466 M: 0410 520 776

Helene Fox E: helenefoxpublicity@gmail.com T: 0412 085 032