



# REVOLUTIONS -FORMS THAT TURN 2008 BIENNALE OF SYDNEY

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## BIENNALE OF SYDNEY OPENS!

Australia's biggest art exhibition transforms Sydney for winter

The 2008 Biennale of Sydney *Revolutions – Forms That Turn* opens today featuring new projects by Janet Cardiff & Georges Bures Miller, Pierre Huyghe, William Kentridge, Joan Jonas, Christoph Büchel and Shaun Gladwell amongst many others. Artistic Director Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev has brought together over 180 artists including 65 new projects, from artists spanning 42 countries. The exhibition takes in seven of the city's leading galleries and spectacular outdoor sites clustered around the harbourside plus a world-first online venue.

Under the theme *Revolutions – Forms That Turn*, the exhibition explores the urge to revolt. Artistic Director Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev says of the exhibition “*artists are visionaries, and the leaders of our imagination. At every point in time where there has been a revolution, it is artists who have seen it and articulated it first. In this Biennale I wanted to show this by bringing together some of the most revolutionary moments in art from the past century and today. Some of these artists are very famous, some are new discoveries. I am thrilled and honoured to have been able to bring all of these people and artworks together and I am grateful to our magnificent artists for entrusting me with their visions.*”

Cockatoo Island features 35 art works including **TV Moore's** new sound and video piece *Escape Carnival* installed in the underground tunnel, **Susan Phillipz's** *The Internationale* erected in the old Turbine Hall, **William Kentridge's** video installation *What Will Come (Has Already Come)* and new lecture/performance *I am not me, the horse is not mine* (2008), which is a multi-channel projected work modelled on *The Nose* by Nikolai Gogol. Other key works include **Paul Pfeiffer's** *Vitruvian Figure* based on the Sydney Olympic Stadium, **Shaun Gladwell's** newest project *Ghost Rider* and a retrospective of works by **Mike Parr**.

Major projects are on show at the MCA – loosely themed around ‘vertical movement’ – including historical works such as **León Ferrari's** *La civilización occidental y cristiana (Western Christian Civilization)* and **Alexander Calder's** two mobile works *Hanging Spider* and *Roxbury Flurry*. New works include a video and film montage by **Tracey Moffatt** and **Gary Hillberg** entitled *REVOLUTION* and performance/installation works *No Future* and *Guards* by **Christoph Büchel**.

The Art Gallery of NSW façade will be adorned by **Dan Perjovschi's** new *Sydney Drawings*, which enscribe the entire façade of the building in chalk, and in the nearby Royal Botanic Gardens is **Giuseppe Penone's** eight-metre-high tree cast entirely in bronze. Inside the Art Gallery of NSW foyer sits an extraordinary Tatlin Tower constructed from rubble of The Block in Redfern and developed in collaboration with the Redfern community.

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Pier 2/3 is the host venue for **Janet Cardiff** and **George Bures Miller**'s largest work to date, *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.

**Pierre Huyghe** will transform the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House into a magical forest for 24 hours only, from 12 noon on Wednesday, 9 July to 12 noon on Thursday, 10 July. Also, in The Studio at the Sydney Opera House, **Dora García** presents her 're-imagining' of the notorious Lenny Bruce comedy performance of the 1960s. Legendary New York performance artist **Joan Jonas** gives premiere performances at the Cell Block Theatre, National Art School on Sunday, 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*. The unique online venue includes both new and contextual works, and continues to grow with artists including **Tamy Ben-Tor**, **Stuart Rinholt** and **Emory Douglas**.

The Biennale of Sydney in conjunction with Thames and Hudson will publish a special Artists' Book. The book contains essays by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, Iwona Blazwick, Johnathon Crary and Charles Harrison and 160 black and white artist drawings by 130 artists including unique works by Vernon Ah Kee, Paul Chan, Mike Rakowitz and Simryn Gill. Available at bookstores and exhibition venues. RRP \$66

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.

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

For more information about the exhibition, venues and events go to: [www.bos2008.com](http://www.bos2008.com).

**MEDIA:** Media information is available in the Media Room of the Biennale website.

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