



REVOLUTIONS
-FORMS
THAT TURN
2008
BIENNALE
OF SYDNEY

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BIENNALE OF SYDNEY CLOSES WITH RECORD ATTENDANCES

The 16th Biennale of Sydney, **Revolutions – Forms That Turn**, closed yesterday with a record attendance figure of over 435,000 for the twelve-week festival – an increase of 37% on the last event – exceeding expectations and smashing all previous records. Organisers attribute the success of this year's event to a combination of factors, including the close proximity of exhibition venues, the free ferry service to take visitors to Pier 2/3 and Cockatoo Island, and a rigorously curated program courtesy of Artistic Director Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, which featured the juxtaposition of historical avant-garde works with the art of today. More than 180 artists were represented in the Biennale of Sydney, across eight venues including an online site. Around 45 of these artists presented talks, workshops or performances, forging direct connections with the public, which is also considered a vital part of this year's success.

'Accessibility, both conceptual and practical, has been the hallmark of the 2008 Biennale of Sydney,' says CEO Marah Braye. 'We are overjoyed by both the critical and public response to this year's Biennale as it is a great challenge for the arts to touch the hearts and minds of both the general public and the informed connoisseur. We are very proud of our success in meeting this challenge.'

We made a point of tightly clustering this year's Biennale of Sydney around the harbour to create an experience of our beautiful city – keeping it easily accessible by foot and water. Our free ferry service has been enormously popular with 78,814 people using it to reach Pier 2/3 and Cockatoo Island. We attribute a large part of this year's success to these initiatives and, of course, to the ambitious vision of this year's Artistic Director, Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, who has delivered moments that astound, celebrate, challenge, evoke and inspire at each of the eight venues. Celebrating the 35th anniversary this year, I am proud to report the 2008 Biennale of Sydney has been the most successful year yet, with attendances eclipsing previous festivals.'

Highlights of the 16th Biennale of Sydney have included the massive 100-speaker sound installation *The Murder of Crows* by Canadian artists Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller at Pier 2/3. William Kentridge's first ever performance *I am not me, the horse is not mine* was widely considered an historical moment and was complemented by his second work on Cockatoo Island, *What Will Come (Has Already Come)*.

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Sharmila Samant's multiple snake sculptures *Against the Grain* and the octagenerian rock band project *No Future* by Christoph Buchel were major drawcards at the Museum of Contemporary Art, as well as historical works including the suspended horse *Novecento* by Maurizio Cattelan and the mobiles by Alexander Calder. At the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Stuart Ringholt's 'Anger Workshops' and the works of Dan Perjovschi and Nedko Solokov were highlights, as well as Mike Rakowitz's tower *White man got no dreaming* situated in the entrance foyer.

Pierre Huyghe's magical installation at the Sydney Opera House *A Forest of Lines* alone brought over 6500 people to see the iconic Concert Hall transformed into a futuristic hothouse over a 24-hour period in July.

Artistic Director, Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev said: 'I have loved working on the 2008 Biennale of Sydney. The audience has been magnificent, with people of all ages participating in and enjoying the art – art that seduces, moves you, challenges how you think and lead your life. Many thanks to the Biennale of Sydney team for helping me deliver a wonderful event. And thank you Sydney for entrusting me with your attention and your focus, and for engaging with the myriad wonderful works of art we have been lucky enough to host here in Sydney this winter.'

The 16th Biennale of Sydney ran from 18 June to 7 September 2008.

The Biennale of Sydney has appointed David Elliott as Artistic Director for the 2010 festival.

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