

17th Biennale of Sydney

Artistic Director David Elliott unveils program highlights for the 17th Biennale of Sydney

12 May – 1 August 2010

For immediate release, 12 February 2010

Artistic Director, **David Elliott**, today unveiled at the Sydney Opera House program highlights for the 17th Biennale of Sydney, which will be presented free to the public from 12 May until 1 August 2010.

Based on the curatorial theme **THE BEAUTY OF DISTANCE: Songs of Survival in a Precarious Age**, recent and new works by Australian artists will be showcased alongside international artists at Sydney's leading cultural institutions, contemporary art spaces and heritage sites.

David Elliott, international curator, writer, broadcaster and museum director, explores connections between the visual arts and other art forms in 'THE BEAUTY OF DISTANCE'. Artists' works will be presented alongside the work of contemporary writers, filmmakers, commentators and musicians. Elliott says: 'The aim of this Biennale is to bring together work from diverse cultures, at the same time, on the equal playing field of contemporary art, where no culture can assume superiority over any other.'

Elliott has constructed 'THE BEAUTY OF DISTANCE' with Sydney's position as an iconic modern world city in mind and believes biennales should enter into conversation with the places where they are shown.

Cockatoo Island (in the middle of Sydney Harbour) returns as a major venue in 2010, building on the success of its inaugural use for the 16th Biennale of Sydney (2008). The island will feature many new site-specific works created directly in response to the location. The venue will feature works by approximately 50 artists, including **Cai Guo-Qiang**, the **Tiger Lillies**, **AES+F**, **Isaac Julien** and **Brook Andrew**.

The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) will devote its entire gallery space to the Biennale

for the first time. One of the MCA's largest galleries will be filled with 110 larrakitj (memorial poles) created by 41 Yolngu artists from North East Arnhem Land. Other artists exhibiting at the MCA include **John Bock**, **Louise Bourgeois**, **Brett Graham** and **Angela Ellsworth**.

Artspace will become the home of SuperDeluxe, one of Tokyo's leading alternative spaces for experimental music, culture and ideas. **SuperDeluxe@Artspace** is at once a performance venue, art gallery, bar and club, featuring a sensational line-up of Japanese performers, improvised collaborations with local artists and **PechaKucha** nights.

The Sydney Opera House will host an ephemeral work by **Jennifer Wen Ma** and performances by Finland's **Mieskuoro Huutajat (Shouting Men's Choir)**.

Pier 2/3 will premiere a new installation by **Paul McCarthy**, while **Fiona Hall** will create a new work for the Royal Botanic Gardens.

The Art Gallery of New South Wales, due to gallery renovations, participates as a supporting venue in 2010 exhibiting Biennale works in the Grand Court. Artists will include **Hisashi Tenmyouya** and **Wang Qingsong**.

The 17th Biennale of Sydney will be dedicated to the life and continuing influence of Nick Waterlow OAM and the Biennale's keynote address from hereon will be named in Nick Waterlow's memory.

To download the full media release please visit <http://www.bos17.com>

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