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**19TH**  
**BIENNALE**  
**OF SYDNEY**  
21 MARCH  
- 9 JUNE 2014  
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**MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# THE BIENNALE OF SYDNEY ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF THE INAUGURAL CITY OF SYDNEY LEGACY ARTWORK BY ARTISTS JANET CARDIFF AND GEORGE BURES MILLER

**BIENNALE OF SYDNEY LIMITED**

43-51 COWPER WHARF ROAD

WOOLLOOMOOLOO NSW 2011

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**Sydney, Australia:** The Biennale of Sydney has announced that the inaugural City of Sydney legacy artwork will be a specially commissioned twilight video walk around The Rocks.

Created by international artists Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller, *City of Forking Paths* (2014) will be unveiled on 1 May 2014 as part of the **19<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Sydney: You Imagine What You Desire**, curated by Juliana Engberg. The work will remain as a permanent part of the City of Sydney's public art collection (City Art) at the conclusion of the exhibition.

Experienced on a smart phone or mobile device, *City of Forking Paths* leads people on a fictional journey through physical surrounds at dusk. Starting at Customs House in Circular Quay, the work weaves a trail through The Rocks. Users can download the app onto their personal devices from home or borrow a mobile device for free.

The City of Sydney has committed up to \$300,000 every two years to commission a major artwork for each of the next three Biennale of Sydney exhibitions, which will remain in Sydney as a permanent legacy and become part of the City Art collection.

**Lord Mayor Clover Moore** said: 'This first Biennale legacy artwork by Cardiff and Miller builds on the City's commitment to high-quality public art and we've committed up to \$300,000 to keep this engaging, world-class work here.'

'The success of events like the Biennale shows there is enthusiastic public support for contemporary art in Sydney – people want to be inspired, challenged and delighted by art and the City is committed to making Sydney the sort of place where groundbreaking art is encouraged and appreciated.'

'This new work by Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller fits that category perfectly and I am sure it will be enthusiastically welcomed.'

**Marah Braye**, Chief Executive Officer, Biennale of Sydney said: 'We are proud to attract some of the most respected names in contemporary art from around the world to exhibit work in this city. It is wonderful for us to be working with Cardiff and Miller again. This new project allows the Biennale of Sydney to secure major international artists to create new work for the City of Sydney and to further expand the City Art collection.'

Cardiff and Miller have created popular site-specific walks for cities around the world, including New York, Pittsburgh, São Paulo, Rome, London and Berlin, most recently creating a video walk for Kassel's Hauptbahnhof Station as part of dOCUMENTA (13) (2012). *City of Forking Paths* continues Cardiff and Miller's innovative body of work by engrossing the active viewer in an intoxicating world that bridges reality and fiction.

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Against the backdrop of real streets and familiar sites, the artists invent fictional scenarios and incidents for users to discover along the way. Guided by the voice of Janet Cardiff, familiar streets, made mystical at dusk, become the backdrop for an unfolding narrative of memory, displacement and desire. The title is an homage to Jorge Luis Borges' story, *The Garden of Forking Paths*, a tale that uses the genre of a spy story to uncover questions of time and loss.

**Juliana Engberg**, Artistic Director, 19<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Sydney said: 'In commissioning Cardiff and Miller to create this evocative fiction of the city, I wanted to acknowledge artists who have already made an impact upon the hearts and minds of the Biennale audience. People will no doubt remember their amazing sound work, *The Murder of Crows*, at Pier 2/3 in 2008. This video walk will become, I'm sure, a must-do encounter for the people of, and visitors to, Sydney.'

The video walk will be available for use, free of charge, after 1 May 2014 when it will be launched during the Middle Program of the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Sydney.

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## ABOUT JANET CARDIFF AND GEORGE BURES MILLER

**Janet Cardiff was born in 1957 in Brussels, Canada**

**George Bures Miller was born in 1960 in Vegreville, Canada**

**Both artists live and work in Grindrod, Canada**

Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller's works have been the subject of several significant international solo exhibitions, recently including 'Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller: Lost in the Memory Palace', Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto (2012); 'Ship 'O Fools', HAU Hebbel am Ufer, Berlin (2011); 'The Murder of Crows', Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton (2010); 'Opera for a Small Room', Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (2009); and 'The House of Books Has No Windows', The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh and Modern Art Oxford, Oxford (2008).

Cardiff and Miller have produced many video walks that have explored the relationship to place. An edited excerpt of their most recent video walk *Alter Bahnhof Video Walk* (2012), presented at dOCUMENTA (13) in Kassel, Germany, can be viewed online: [cardiffmiller.com/artworks/walks/alterbahnhof\\_video.html](http://cardiffmiller.com/artworks/walks/alterbahnhof_video.html)

## ABOUT THE BIENNALE OF SYDNEY

The Biennale of Sydney is a non-profit organisation that presents Australia's largest and most exciting contemporary visual arts event. Held every two years, the Biennale is a three-month exhibition, with an accompanying program of artist talks, performances, forums, guided tours, family days and other special events – all FREE to the public.

The Biennale of Sydney was the first biennale to be established in the Asia-Pacific region and, alongside the Venice and São Paulo biennales and documenta, is one of the longest running exhibitions of its kind.

Since its inception in 1973, the Biennale of Sydney has provided an international platform for innovative and challenging contemporary art, showcasing the work of nearly 1600 artists from over 100 countries. Today it ranks as one of the leading international festivals of contemporary art and continues to be recognised for presenting the freshest and most provocative art from Australia and around the world.

The **19<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Sydney: You Imagine What You Desire** will be presented free to the public from 21 March until 9 June 2014 at venues across Sydney.

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## ABOUT THE CITY OF SYDNEY

The City of Sydney is the local government authority responsible for the central business district (CBD) and more than 30 suburbs or parts of suburb in Sydney.

The City of Sydney is committed to the development of a tolerant, diverse, prosperous and sustainable city which values its rich natural, cultural and urban heritage. Art and culture make a city stimulating and memorable, and create a flourishing and outward-looking environment of which its communities can be justly proud.

As the most visible and accessible art form, public art plays a role of unprecedented importance in contributing to the poetic dimension of a city. The City believes thriving art and culture are the great indicators of a city's pulse and should have a palpable presence throughout the city.

## MEDIA CONTACTS

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