

**YOU
IMAGINE
WHAT
YOU
DESIRE
19TH
BIENNALE
OF SYDNEY
21 MARCH
- 9 JUNE 2014
19BOS.COM**

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, 8 May 2014

**THE BIENNALE OF SYDNEY JOINS FORCES WITH
SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND SYDNEY
PHILHARMONIA CHOIRS TO PRESENT HENRIK
HÅKANSSON'S 'EPIC' NOIR FILM AND SCORE *THE END***

BIENNALE OF SYDNEY LIMITED

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WOOLLOOMOOLOO NSW 2011

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Sydney, Australia: The **19th Biennale of Sydney: You Imagine What You Desire** today announced details of the exhibition's **End Program**, which will take place on Saturday, 7 June 2014 during the event's closing weekend.

A major highlight of the program sees the Biennale of Sydney joins forces with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Sydney Philharmonia Choirs to present Swedish artist **Henrik Håkansson's** epic, episodic film performance work, suitably titled *THE END* (2011).

Under the baton of acclaimed Australian conductor Jessica Cottis, the work delivers an emotional and cathartic event of life and death; tragedy and comedy. Situated in the acoustic brilliance of Sydney's historic Pier 2/3, *THE END* brings together cinema and sound in a climactic event to mark the final days of the Biennale.

Cinema and music have long been companions, and as Alfred Hitchcock knew so well, music and sound enhance perception, and heighten the sense of anticipation and imminent danger for the audience. Referencing the emotional cues and clues produced in dramatic, cinematic orchestration, the specially commissioned musical score, by British composer John Coxon, utilises the full range of instrumentations, including human voices, to create moods of suspense, anxiety, apprehension, melancholy, fright, exaltation and sentimentality. Presented with support from Destination NSW, *THE END* will take place at 8 pm on 7 June, with bookings now available.

Also on Saturday, 7 June, the Biennale of Sydney will present ***Dream Factory***, a public forum at Carriageworks that explores how the perceptive and psychological qualities of film influence the practice of contemporary artists. The forum is organised in collaboration with the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney.

Dream Factory includes two discussion panels and a keynote address delivered by **Russell Ferguson**, Professor of Art at the University of California, Los Angeles. Titled **A BEGINNING, A MIDDLE, AND AN END** the talk will examine the relationship between narrative in art and mainstream film.

Discussion one, **Fragmented Realities**, features 19th Biennale artists **Henry Coombes** and **Daniel McKewen**, who will each deliver a short talk before delving into the psychology of cinema and the film industry with **Dr Bruce Isaacs**, from the Department of History and Film Studies at the University of Sydney.

Exploring the history, mechanics and effects of acoustimatic sound, the second discussion, **Sound Unseen**, is between **Nikos Papastergiadis** and 19th Biennale artists **Sonia Leber** and **David Chesworth**, whose multi-channel audio work *This Is Before We Disappear From View* (2014) was created for the 19th Biennale on Cockatoo Island.

The End Program of the 19th Biennale of Sydney is the final installment of a three-part public program focus, which included an extensive Opening Week program and a Middle Program that saw the world premiere of **Tacita Dean's** *Event for a Stage* (2014) and the launch of the inaugural City of Sydney legacy artwork by **Janet Cardiff** and **George Bures Miller**, *The City of Forking Paths* (2014).

- ENDS -

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DREAM FACTORY FORUM (PROGRAM)

Saturday, 7 June 2014

11.00 am-12 noon: Keynote: A BEGINNING, A MIDDLE, AND AN END by Russell Ferguson
12.05-1.00 pm: Discussion with Dr Bruce Isaacs and 19th Biennale artists
Henry Coombes and Daniel McKewen
1.45-2.30 pm: Discussion with Nikos Papastergiadis and 19th Biennale artists
Sonia Leber and David Chesworth

ABOUT HENRIK HÅKANSSON (19TH BIENNALE ARTIST)

Born 1968 in Helsingborg, Sweden, Henrik Håkansson lives and works in Berlin, Germany and Falkenberg, Sweden. Håkansson is, to use his own words, fascinated with the 'organised randomness' of the world around us. Akin to a scientist, biologist or naturalist, the artist uses methods of observation, collecting and categorising to create a body of work, which examines humankind's relation to nature in a philosophical and poetic way. Håkansson varies this expression by utilising an array of media including film, photography, sound and installation, often featuring live plants and animals. Making use of advanced digital equipment in particular, Håkansson emphasises the disparity between the slow pace of the natural world and the high speed of modern technology. This visible divide allows viewers to ponder a natural world from which human existence is growing increasingly removed.

ABOUT RUSSELL FERGUSON (KEYNOTE SPEAKER)

Currently Professor of Art at the University of California Los Angeles, Professor Russell Ferguson is a curator, academic, writer and editor. From 2001, he was Deputy Director for Exhibitions and Programs, and Chief Curator, at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, where he remains an adjunct curator. From 1991 to 2001, he was at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, first as Editor, then as Associate Curator. He has curated solo shows for 19th Biennale artists Douglas Gordon and Mathias Poledna, and extensively covered their work in lectures, catalogue essays, periodicals and the book, *Douglas Gordon*, which was published by Cambridge: MIT Press in 2001.

Ferguson is also the editor of two collections of critical writing: *Discourses: Conversations in Postmodern Art and Culture*, and *Out There: Marginalization and Contemporary Cultures*, both published by the MIT Press. He has written about the work of many contemporary artists, including Thomas Eggerer, Olafur Eliasson, Tony Feher, Rodney Graham, Cristina Iglesias, Damian Ortega, Laura Owens and Gillian Wearing.

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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 **19th Biennale of Sydney: You Imagine What You Desire** is presented free to the public from 21 March until 9 June 2014 at venues across Sydney.

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 1700 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.

MEDIA CONTACT

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