

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

**MEDIA RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Monday, 13 May 2013

## **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JULIANA ENGBERG REVEALS PREVIEW ARTIST LIST FOR 19TH BIENNALE OF SYDNEY**

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**Juliana Engberg**, Artistic Director of the **19<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Sydney**, today shared an early glimpse into one of the leading international festivals of contemporary art, which will be presented from 21 March until 9 June 2014.

Engberg says: '**You Imagine What You Desire** is an evocation celebrating the artistic imagination as a spirited describing and exploration of the world through metaphor and poesis. It makes enquiries into contemporary aesthetic experience, and relates this to historical precedents and future opportunities to imagine possible worlds. It seeks to understand the need artists have today to create immersive and expanded environments, and locates this activity as part of an art historical trajectory, and as a pursuit into the issues of human consciousness, and their psychological, cognitive and corporeal imperatives.

'It reminds us that powerful art is not divorced from the cultural conditions, political, social and climatic environments in which it is generated. That indeed it often exists to provide a meta-commentary on these aspects of society – and even, sometimes, act as an antidote and proposition. As a future vision.

'**You Imagine What You Desire** seeks splendour and rapture in works that remain true to a greater, even sublime visuality. Today these things co-exist and overlap, and the tactics of theatricality cannot be separated from overtly social-situationist inspired works, just as they are central to works engaging with humanity at a grand scale. Extra energies are sought in works that unleash physical and psychic intensity. A happy anarchy is produced with works that activate the power of imagination through laughter and activity.'

The preview artist list, published online at [biennaleofsydney.com](http://biennaleofsydney.com), reveals the names of 18 artists already selected for the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennale: Yael Bartana, Ulla von Brandenburg, Mircea Cantor, David Claerbout, Yingmei Duan, Krisztina Erdei, Douglas Gordon, Henna-Riikka Halonen, Roni Horn, Mikhail Karikis, Laurent Montaron, Agnieszka Polska, Augustin Rebetez, Maxime Rossi, Wael Shawky, John Stezaker, Corin Sworn and Tori Wrånes.

**Marah Braye**, Chief Executive Officer, Biennale of Sydney commented: 'Juliana Engberg has a history of curating intelligent and distinctive exhibitions and programs, and we are all energised by Juliana's curatorial vibrancy. We look forward to next year when Australia's largest and most respected contemporary visual arts event will present artworks from around the world in some of the most beautiful venues in Sydney.'

Major venues for the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Sydney include the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and Cockatoo Island. The full artist and venue list for the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Sydney will be announced later this year.

– ENDS –

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Juliana Engberg is a curator, writer, publisher and designer, and is currently the Artistic Director of ACCA (Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne).

Previously, Engberg was Curator of the Melbourne Festival Visual Arts Program (2000-06). In 2007, Engberg was the senior curatorial advisor for the Australian presentations at the Venice Biennale and inaugurated the ACCA POP-UP PROGRAM in Venice to coincide with the 54<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale (2011). Engberg received the coveted Herald 'ANGEL' award for the visual arts programs she developed for The Edinburgh International Arts Festival 2009.

Engberg was Artistic Director of the acclaimed Melbourne International Biennial 1999 *Signs of Life* and Senior Curator of the Art & Industry Biennale, Christchurch, New Zealand in 2002. She has worked as Senior Curator at the Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne and was Assistant Director of the Monash University Gallery, and Director of the formative contemporary art space, the Ewing and George Paton Galleries, The University of Melbourne.

Engberg was the inaugural curatorial resident at Spike Island, Bristol, England and has been a Visiting Critic at the Glasgow School of Art, Scotland, and a visiting juror for the Rijksacademie in Amsterdam.

## 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 Biennale of Sydney gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the many organisations and individuals that make the exhibition and its programs possible.

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## MEDIA INFORMATION

### 19<sup>TH</sup> BIENNALE OF SYDNEY: YOU IMAGINE WHAT YOU DESIRE

**Media Preview:** Tuesday, 18 March 2014

**Vernissage:** Tuesday, 18 March – Thursday, 20 March 2014

**Public dates:** Friday, 21 March – Monday, 9 June 2014

### ACCREDITATION

Accreditation is now open for arts industry and media professionals to register their interest in attending Vernissage and opening week events. Register at [biennaleofsydney.com/registration](http://biennaleofsydney.com/registration)

### MEDIA IMAGES

To access media images for the Biennale of Sydney, visit [media.biennaleofsydney.com](http://media.biennaleofsydney.com)

Use the following login details:

**user:** media guest

**password:** 2014desire

Please ensure that you use the image credit details as provided on the website.

### MEDIA CONTACTS

Requests for interviews and further information should be directed to:

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