

MEDIA RELEASE
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BIENNALE OF SYDNEY ANNOUNCES STEPHANIE ROSENTHAL AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FOR 2016

Sydney, Australia: The Biennale of Sydney today announced the appointment of **Stephanie Rosenthal** as Artistic Director of the 20th Biennale of Sydney (2016).

Currently based in London, Rosenthal has been Chief Curator of the Hayward Gallery since 2007, having previously worked at the Haus der Kunst in Munich for more than 10 years, where she was appointed Curator for Modern and Contemporary Art in 2000. Earlier this year, Rosenthal was also one of three curators who realised a national section of the first biennial in Cartagena, Colombia, which ran from February to April.

Phillip Keir, newly appointed Chairman of the Biennale of Sydney said the Board was delighted to confirm Stephanie Rosenthal's appointment as Artistic Director for the 2016 exhibition. 'We are very pleased that in Stephanie, the Biennale has again attracted an independent curator of outstanding calibre. We look forward to welcoming Stephanie to Sydney later this year and to her working with our team to realise an inspirational program of events in 2016.'



Danielle Earp, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Biennale of Sydney said, 'Stephanie Rosenthal is a dynamic curator who is internationally renowned for her exploration of the relationship between visual art and performance. Her concept for the Biennale will no doubt reflect her own perspective of Sydney and translate into a series of engaging experiences for local and visiting audiences.'

As Chief Curator at the Hayward Gallery, Rosenthal has worked with leading international artists and curated numerous exhibitions including: 'Robin Rhode: Who Saw Who' (2008); 'Walking in My Mind' (2009); 'MOVE: Choreographing You' (2010); 'Art of Change: New Directions from China' (2012); and 'Pipilotti Rist: Eyeball Massage' (2012). She recently unveiled 'Ana Mendieta: Traces', the first retrospective of the artist's work in the UK, and the acclaimed exhibition 'Dayanita Singh: Go Away Closer'. Rosenthal has also curated the Hayward Gallery's major autumn show, 'MIRRORCITY: 23 artists from London', which will open on 14 October 2014.

At the Haus der Kunst, she curated a series of highly praised exhibitions including: 'Stories. Narrative Structures in Contemporary Art' (2002); 'Abigail O'Brien – The Seven Sacraments' (2003); 'Aernout Mik – Dispersions' (2004); 'Paul McCarthy. LaLa Land Parody Paradise' (2005); 'Black Paintings: Barnett Newman, Robert Rauschenberg, Frank Stella, Ad Reinhardt, Mark Rothko' (2006); 'Allan Kaprow – Art as Life' (2006); and 'Christoph Schlingensief: 18 frames per second' (2007).

On her appointment to the 20th Biennale of Sydney, Stephanie Rosenthal said, 'It is a true pleasure and honour to take on the role of Artistic Director for 2016. As one of the oldest Biennales, it is an ideal opportunity to assess what such an event could and should do in a location like Sydney where so many different cultures and languages come together. I look forward to showing great artists, and to working with a fantastic team to realise a meaningful and relevant 20th Biennale of Sydney.'

Rosenthal will formally commence her appointment as Artistic Director with the Biennale of Sydney in November 2014.

– ENDS –

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

About Stephanie Rosenthal

- Rosenthal holds a PHD in Art History from the Universität in Köln and a MA from the Ludwig-Maximilian-University, Munich. She has published and lectured extensively about contemporary art, curating and performative practices in public institutions and has been part of international advisory boards and symposiums about modern and contemporary art since 1996.
- Since 2007, Rosenthal has been the Chief Curator at the Hayward Gallery in London. In that time she has presented the group exhibition 'Walking in My Mind' (2009), which explored the inner workings of the artist's imagination through the medium of large-scale installation art, as well as the exhibitions 'Art of Change: New Directions from China' (2012); 'Pipilotti Rist: Eyeball Massage' (2012); and 'MOVE: Choreographing You' (2010). Her next exhibition – 'MIRROCITY: 23 artists from London' – will open in October 2014. For more information on the Hayward Gallery, visit southbankcentre.co.uk.
- Rosenthal has toured her exhibitions widely to international venues like The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Kunstsammlung NRW, Düsseldorf; Museum for Contemporary Art (Seoul), Korea; and Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven.
- Previously, Rosenthal worked at the Haus der Kunst in Munich for more than ten years. In this time, she worked as assistant curator and co-curator on highly praised survey exhibitions including 'Night' (1998) and 'Objects in 20th Century Art' (2000). She was appointed Curator for Modern and Contemporary Art in 2000 and curated 'Stories. Narrative Structures in Contemporary Art' (2002); 'Abigail O'Brien – The Seven Sacraments' (2003); 'Aernout Mik – Dispersions' (2004); and 'Allan Kaprow – Art as Life' (2006). She also curated the acclaimed exhibition 'Paul McCarthy. LaLa Land Parody Paradise' (2005), which toured to the Whitechapel Gallery.

About Phillip Keir, Chairman, Biennale of Sydney

Phillip Keir has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Biennale of Sydney as preparations for the 20th staging of the event in 2016 gather pace. Phillip is co-founder of the Keir Foundation and has been a Director of the Biennale of Sydney for the past 8 years. He was formally founder and publisher of nextmedia, the fourth largest consumer magazine company in Australia. He has devoted much of his professional career and personal energy to fostering innovation and excellence in the arts through the philanthropic support provided by the Keir Foundation and his earlier work as a theatre director and performer in Europe, the US and Australia. The Keir Foundation's most recent initiative, the Keir Choreographic Award, took place in July at Carriageworks, Sydney and Dancehouse, Melbourne.

On his appointment as Chairman, Phillip said: 'The Biennale of Sydney is one of the world's leading and most anticipated contemporary arts festivals. It is an honour to accept the role of Chairman and I look forward to working closely with our funding and collaborative partners, our many generous supporters and our professional festival staff.'

Mr Keir praised his immediate predecessor, Andrew Cameron, who will continue his association with the Biennale as a Director of the Board. 'We sincerely thank Andrew for his enormous commitment to the Biennale as Interim Chairman throughout this year. We are delighted Andrew will remain an integral member of the Board in addition to his other commitments, which include his role as Chair of the Belvoir Street Theatre.'

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, it 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. The recently completed 19th Biennale of Sydney attracted more than 623,000 visitors to the Biennale partner venues, including nearly 125,000 from overseas, the highest international visitation numbers recorded in the exhibition's 41-year history.

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