

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BIENNALE OF SYDNEY ANNOUNCES NEILSON FOUNDATION AS INAUGURAL PRINCIPAL PATRON

Sydney, Australia: The Biennale of Sydney and the Neilson Foundation today announced a landmark funding partnership that provides a fantastic boost for the largest and most significant contemporary visual arts event in the Asia–Pacific region ahead of its 20th staging in 2016.

In welcoming the Neilson Foundation donation, Biennale of Sydney Chairman **Phillip Keir** said, ‘The partnership represents the largest single donation received from a private foundation in the Biennale’s 41-year history and has been formally recognised with the Neilson Foundation becoming the Biennale of Sydney’s inaugural Principal Patron. We thank them for their commitment and passion for the arts.’

Mr Kerr Neilson of the Neilson Foundation said, ‘The Biennale of Sydney is Australia’s pre-eminent independent contemporary art event and we are delighted to be a major partner in its future. We were driven to step up our contribution because the Biennale provides an important international platform for contemporary art and supports the exploration of new ideas and venues, including the internationally recognised Cockatoo Island in Sydney Harbour. We hope this donation will encourage others to join us in giving generously to the Biennale.’

The Neilson Foundation provides financial assistance to a range of organisations in Australia and has supported the Biennale of Sydney since 2010.

Phillip Keir said, ‘Throughout its history, the Biennale has been fortunate to receive support from many generous individuals, most notably from Franco Belgiorno-Nettis and the Belgiorno-Nettis family. The Neilson Foundation’s donation provides a solid start for our ongoing fundraising activities towards 2016.’

Danielle Earp, Chief Executive Officer (Acting) said, ‘The incredible contribution provided by the Neilson Foundation is a testament to the passion and vision of Kerr, Judith, Paris and Beau. We are extremely grateful for their endorsement of the creative vision that underpins the Biennale of Sydney, and for the vital support we receive from all of our private supporters, corporate sponsors, cultural funders and government partners.’

The 20th Biennale of Sydney (2016) will be curated by Stephanie Rosenthal and presented from 18 March – 5 June 2016. Ms Rosenthal has been touring prospective new festival venues and meeting with curatorial collaborators in Sydney this week.

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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 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 more than 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.

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