

**20th  
Biennale  
of Sydney**  
18 MARCH —  
05 JUNE 2016

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**THE FUTURE IS  
ALREADY HERE  
— IT'S JUST  
NOT EVENLY  
DISTRIBUTED**

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Photograph: Aimee Crouch

## **The Biennale of Sydney and City of Sydney announce 2016 Biennale Legacy Artwork Project will be created by Australian artist Agatha Gothe-Snape**

**Sydney, Australia:** The Biennale of Sydney and City of Sydney today announced Australian artist Agatha Gothe-Snape has been awarded the second Biennale Legacy Artwork Project. The 2016 Legacy Artwork will be a work developed during the 20<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Sydney: *The future is already here – it's just not evenly distributed*, curated by Stephanie Rosenthal, which will result in a major new permanent public artwork for the City of Sydney's City Art Collection.

Sydney-based artist Agatha Gothe-Snape (b.1980) is highly regarded for her wide-ranging conceptual practice, and has exhibited her work extensively, both nationally and internationally. For this edition of the Biennale, the artist has developed a series of performances with dancer and choreographer Brooke Stamp, taking place along a pathway extending from Speakers' Corner in the Domain to Wemyss Lane, Surry Hills.

Titled *Here, an Echo*, Gothe-Snape describes the work as a 'choreography for the city' – a score, performance and document – and these experiences will inform the development of a number of short phrases, which will be installed as large-scale texts in Wemyss Lane, as a permanent part of the City of Sydney's Public Art Collection. Part of the final physical work is also an extended process of research and conversation, with other artists, colleagues, the general public as well as stakeholders in and around Wemyss Lane, including building owners, tenants, residents and random passers-by. Accumulating as an archive of stories, observations and responses, Gothe-Snape will translate these into phrases, which will be applied directly onto the walls of the laneway, introducing a sense of whimsy and intrigue to a site that might not otherwise attract notice.

Agatha Gothe-Snape said: *"I am so excited and honoured to be producing a work that responds to the ambiances of Sydney. To spend the time in the streets, laneways and public spaces of the city listening to its utterances is thrilling. I hope to produce a work that is generated by the city itself, and available to all users – residents, workers, tourists and artists – as a trace that relates to the past, present and future of Sydney."*

*"I believe art has a vital role in any city, particularly in public places, to create more space – whether that is rhetorical, social, emotional or political. Art gives audiences an important opportunity to ask themselves and*

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those around them questions about who they are and what they believe in. I hope Here, An Echo can offer such spaces of reflection, contemplation and questioning in both its production throughout the 20th Biennale of Sydney and materialisation as a permanent work in Wemyss Lane, Surry Hills," added Gothe-Snape.

Stephanie Rosenthal, Artistic Director of the 20th Biennale, describes how Gothe-Snape's work will act to "subtly the site, with carefully chosen phrases serving as footnotes to the life of the city. Together these form an echo of the histories, voices and activities of both the streetscape and the interior life of buildings. Gothe-Snape is an important artist of our time using a process and language which couldn't be more contemporary. Here, an Echo will cast a new light on this inner-city location, using language to question our relationships to one another, to art, and to the contexts and histories in which all these are situated."

Lord Mayor Clover Moore said, "I applaud Stephanie Rosenthal's proposal of Agatha Gothe-Snape as the recipient of the 2016 Legacy Project. I am delighted her work will connect with the residents of Sydney and reveal their stories. 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 Agatha's project will, I'm sure, succeed on all fronts. The City is committed to making Sydney the sort of place where groundbreaking art is encouraged and appreciated."

Ben Strout, CEO of the Biennale of Sydney said: "We are delighted to once again partner with the City of Sydney to produce a major new artwork for Sydney. We are especially pleased this edition will be realised by an artist who has such a deep commitment to the communities in which she works."

In 2014, the City of Sydney committed every two years to commission a major artwork for each of the following three Biennale of Sydney exhibitions, with each remaining in Sydney as a permanent legacy and becoming part of the City Art Collection. For further information about the City Art Collection visit: [cityartsydney.com.au](http://cityartsydney.com.au)

– Ends –

**MEDIA CONTACTS:** For further information and to request interviews and images relating to the 20th Biennale of Sydney, please contact: Kym Elphinstone, [kym@articulatepr.com.au](mailto:kym@articulatepr.com.au) +61 421 106 139 or Susanne Briggs, [susanne@articulatepr.com.au](mailto:susanne@articulatepr.com.au) +61 412 268 320.

**MEDIA IMAGES:** Please visit [http://bit.ly/20BOS\\_MediaImages](http://bit.ly/20BOS_MediaImages) to access press images with captions.

**ABOUT THE BIENNALE OF SYDNEY:** Since its inception in 1973, the Biennale of Sydney has provided a platform for art and ideas, showcasing the work of nearly 1,700 artists from more than 100 countries. Today it is considered one of the leading international art events, recognised for commissioning and presenting innovative, thought provoking art from Australia and around the world. In 2014, the 19th Biennale of Sydney attracted more than 623,000 visits. With 40 per cent of visits made by people from outside of Sydney, the Biennale holds an important place on both the national and international stage.



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