

MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, 24 September 2012

After 40 years, the Biennale of Sydney is stronger than ever

Sydney, Australia: The 18th Biennale of Sydney, Australia's largest visual arts event, closed on Sunday, 16 September, after presenting the work of more than 100 artists from 44 countries.

As one of the longest running exhibitions of its kind and the first biennale to be established in the Asia-Pacific region, the Biennale of Sydney has provided an international platform for innovative and challenging contemporary art for nearly 40 years.

Luca Belgiorno-Nettis, Chairman, said: 'As we look to celebrating our 40th anniversary next year, it's wonderful to see the Biennale continue to achieve both critical acclaim and popular appeal.

'Reflecting on the last three exhibitions alone, there are numerous projects and innovations of which we are very proud. Since 2008, the Biennale has pioneered Cockatoo Island as a major venue, which, in addition to our ongoing use of Pier 2/3, continues to introduce new audiences to contemporary artists and their work in unique environments.'

The **18th Biennale of Sydney: all our relations**, curated by **Catherine de Zegher** and **Gerald McMaster**, was presented at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and non-museum venues, Pier 2/3, Cockatoo Island and Carriageworks.

With more artists working on site over longer periods of time to create their projects, the 18th Biennale of Sydney (27 June – 16 September) continued the trend of previous exhibitions by presenting a significant number of new artworks created especially for the Biennale, together with many works that were seen for the first time in Australia.

Audiences were enthralled by artworks across all Biennale venues and encouraged to take away new ideas, new thoughts and new stories from every artist in the exhibition.

The 18th Biennale of Sydney also offered numerous opportunities for audiences to experience artist performances and participatory projects, including *Cut Papers #13*, the ongoing performance and installation by Sachiko Abe, which ran for the duration of the Biennale.

Marah Braye, Chief Executive Officer, said: 'Presenting a performative work for three months is an incredible commitment of time for an artist. The Biennale is deeply grateful to Sachiko Abe for her generosity. We also wish to extend our sincere thanks to all the 18th Biennale of Sydney artists for their extraordinary vision and creativity.

– CONTINUES –

**18TH
BIENNALE
OF SYDNEY**

**27 JUNE
– 16 SEPT
2012**

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'The audience response to the exhibition has been extremely positive and we are delighted to welcome increasing numbers of visitors to the Biennale, continuing the enormous growth we've experienced over the past six years.'

Visitation to the Biennale of Sydney has more than doubled over the last three editions, with the 18th Biennale of Sydney achieving a record 665,488 visits across all venues. This represents an increase of approximately 29 per cent from 2010.

The 19th Biennale of Sydney will take place in 2014 under the artistic direction of Juliana Engberg.

– ENDS –

ABOUT THE BIENNALE OF SYDNEY

Every two years, the Biennale of Sydney is presented free to the public over a twelve-week period. As the most exciting contemporary visual arts event in the Asia-Pacific region, the Biennale will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2013.

Alongside the Venice and São Paulo biennales and documenta, it is one of the longest running exhibitions of its kind and was the first biennale to be established in the Asia-Pacific region. Since its inception in 1973, the Biennale of Sydney has provided an international platform for innovative and challenging contemporary art, showcasing the work of 1593 artists from over 100 countries.

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

MEDIA IMAGES

To access media images for the 18th Biennale of Sydney, visit bos18.com/media-images

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