



MEDIA RELEASE

Date:

NEW IDEAS

Palaces, mazes, mirrors and childhood memories

NEW06, ACCA'S annual showcase of the best young Australian artists goes national in 2006, with five new commissions by Melbourne artists and two from New South Wales.

One of the most anticipated events in Melbourne's contemporary exhibitions calendar, revealing 'who's hot' in Australian contemporary art, NEW returns in 2006 with commissions by five Melbourne artists, and two from New South Wales.

Now in its fourth year, NEW06 promises to deliver remarkable and ambitious works from the freshest crop of young Australian artists, including Sydney's **Makeshift Collective** and **Giles Ryder**, together with Melbourne artists **Helen Johnson, Darren Sylvester, Shaun Wilson, Natasha Johns-Messenger** and **Laresa Kosloff**.

This year curated by ACCA's Artistic Director **Juliana Engberg** and part of **Festival Melbourne2006**, the cultural festival of the Commonwealth Games, NEW06 will be a sensory experience, one of palaces, mazes, mirrors and childhood memories. It will feature installations, sculptures, sound works, photography, video and painting, showcasing the diversity and verve of Australia's young talent.

- Darren Sylvester, known for his high resolution photographic work, will create two video clips, in which the artist becomes 70s pop idols, Kate Bush and David Bowie, creating a fascinating narrative about the objects of popular culture and how they enhance our lives.
- Video artist, Laresa Kosloff, will create a new choreographed video work that playfully explores issues relating to sculpture, painting and performance.
- Shaun Wilson is making a memory palace, where film footage found in his family archive will become animated and painterly, creating a heart-tugging and nostalgic place of intense observation.

- Helen Johnson will create a large landscape wall painting, reflecting a renewed appreciation of the natural, and an examination of how our representations of 'landscape' interact within the sphere of 'culture'.
- Natasha Johns-Messenger will create a sculptural mirrored palace, one full of trickery and deceptions. Natasha, who recently won the 2005 Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture, will invite the viewer to step inside her sculptural construction and become an active performer within her process.
- Giles Ryder will make a series of neons, and wall panels, extending his practice and investigation of the reduction of form, space, line and material and the effects of colour.
- And Makeshift Collective, a Sydney based 'art tribe', will construct an intricate yet volatile cardboard castle that is part mood maze, part adventure playground, and dream space.

Juliana Engberg: "Ultimately there is a sense of wonder and invention in each of the projects which are being made by the artists I have selected for NEW06. Optical plays, enacted geometrics, animated memories, labyrinthine encounters, wondrous, weird nature and post-pop art all make their presence felt in this clutch of commissions that activate ACCA's ever changing, challenging spaces."

As a special focus event for the Commonwealth Games, this year ACCA will add to NEW06 with +Plus Factors, taking the best of cutting-edge contemporary performance and art to the street. A group of Australian artists will create their own kind of marathon sporting events in Melbourne's CBD in a playful and amusing program about the world of sport.

NEW06 March 13 – May 14 and +Plus Factors March 13 – March 26.

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, 111 Sturt Street, Southbank.

Gallery hours: Tuesday-Sunday 10am-6pm. Mondays by appointment.

Tel: 03 9697 9999. Admission: Free. www.accaonline.org.au

For further media information about NEW06 and +Plus Factors, contact Katrina Hall on 0421 153 046 or email kathall@ozemail.com.