

# Cheeky artist heading to Germany

BY JOE McQUILLEN AND GINA McCOLL

**MELBOURNE conceptual artist Stuart Ringholt, who has worked with snot, loo paper and nudity, will stage his *Anger Workshops* performance series at the German contemporary art exhibition *Documenta 13* in 2012.**

The artist is one of a number awarded Victorian government funding last week to assist with overseas tours, collaborations and building international audiences. Visual artists Rosslynd Piggott and Brook Andrew, musicians Robin Fox and Philip Brophy, and companies Chamber Made Opera and Polyglot Theatre are among those who shared in \$175,000 in export arts grants.

Held every five years between June and September in Kassel in Germany, *Documenta* is one of the most prestigious

exhibitions of contemporary art in the world. The 2007 exhibition attracted 750,000 visitors to the city. Australian artists previously represented include Brett Whiteley, Destiny Deacon and Juan Davila. Sydney artist Fiona Hall has also been selected for *Documenta 13*.

Ringholt's scheduled appearance follows his performances at the Venice Biennale this year (part of a cheeky "guerilla" delegation to the invitation-only



event) and his nomination as one of the hottest contemporary artists in the country in *The Sunday Age*.

His *Anger Workshops* were first performed in 2008 after being commissioned for the Sydney Biennale by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev (who is also the artistic director of *Documenta 13*). The Preston artist said the workshops were about making people understand the futility of anger, while providing a cathartic experience.

"It's quite simple: get angry for five minutes, then be loving for five minutes," Ringholt said. "When you have to get angry for five minutes, people can't do it. It's not enjoyable being angry, it's actually more enjoyable being loving and hugging someone, and people realise that physically."

The workshops continue Ringholt's interest in socially awkward situations.

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