

New Australian Live Art festival woos impressive international artist line-up

exist in 08: 6 days, 5 sites, more than 40 artists, 3 generations, 4 continents

- Brisbane: 22 – 26 October, Judith Wright Centre and Metro Arts
 - Toowoomba: 1 November, USQ Artsworx
- Townsville and Mackay via Skype Viewing Hubs: 22 – 25 October
www.existin08.com

An adventurous new Live Art festival is wooing renowned international contemporary artists and curators to Australian soil to present installations, collaborations and forums with local artists over five sites in Queensland from 22 October to 1 November.

Curators Zane Trow and Rebecca Cunningham are thrilled **exist in 08** has attracted such a high calibre of artists from around the world, many of whom will be visiting Australia for the first time.

exist in 08's exhibiting artists span three generations and four continents and will present Live Art – an international art movement incorporating elements of performance art, dance, sound art, music, film, installation and visual art...in fact Live Art encompasses all art forms in the presentation of ideas about humanity in the 21st century.

The festival is expected to make a powerful splash in the global performance and Live Art scene, creating valuable opportunities to showcase some of Australia's most exciting established and emerging contemporary artists.

"This is a major opportunity for Australian live art/performance artists," says Trow, a sound and performance artist, artistic advisor at Metro Arts, and past artistic director and chief executive officer of various arts organisations and centres in Australia, including Brisbane Powerhouse, The Performance Space, and Next Wave Festival.

"It's not often our artists get the opportunity to present at a Live Art festival and mingle with highly respected international artists on home soil so we wanted to make **exist in 08** big from the outset," he said.

"We're thrilled to present an incredibly diverse line-up with artists from Mexico, UK, Europe and Asia and accomplished guests like UK-based festival director Nikki Millican who curates the iconic National Review of Live Art held in Glasgow each year (and which is due to celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2010).

"With arts industry veterans like Nikki and world renowned artists like Elvira Santamaria Torres (Mexico) working alongside local Indigenous artists like Alicia Jones and Tamara Whyte, it's not just the audience and researchers who will benefit but the artists too as they inspire, motivate and challenge one another over an intensive period."

Co-curator, Rebecca Cunningham – a Brisbane-based curator and sound/performance artist with classical training at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music – is excited to be guiding **exist in 08** to break new ground in different ways.

"This is the first time many of these international artists have visited Australia, such as Muhammad Lugas Syllabus (Indonesia) and Jürgen Fritz (Germany) and it is the first time an international Live Art event has been independently curated here," Cunningham said.

"Furthermore, we are not only working across two sites in Brisbane at the Judith Wright Centre and Metro Arts, and taking the festival to Toowoomba's USQ Artsworx gallery, but we are also streaming performances through online Skype Viewing Hubs to partners in Townsville and Mackay.

"It's a very exciting model for expanding our reach, encouraging collaboration between arts venues and engaging regional communities in city-based events."

The program is live on the **exist in 08** website (www.existin08.com) and outlines the range of evening performances, afternoon talks showcasing emerging artists, panels, debates and DVD performances.

The artists will shift the spaces between art and life in performance and Live Art to present work that is humorous, vulnerable, demanding, and confrontingly human.

exist in 08 is supported by the following organisations:

Partner – The Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts **Major Sponsors** – Arts Queensland and Brisbane City Council
Supported by – Metro Arts, MAAP: Multimedia Arts Asia Pacific, QUT – Queensland University of Technology, USQ - University Of Southern Queensland, Media Commons – Mackay, Pinnacles Gallery – Townsville, Arts Admin bursary scheme, Culture Ireland, Goethe Institute, Ministry of Mexico



For more information, media interviews and high resolution images, contact Frances Frangenheim on 0414 510178 or frances@trillcreative.com

EXIST IN 08

International Live Art Event

Curated by Zane Trow and Rebecca Cunningham

Brisbane: 22 – 26 October, Judith Wright Centre and Metro Arts

Toowoomba: 1 November, USQ Artsworx

Townsville and Mackay via Skype Viewing Hubs: 22 – 25 October

Bookings and more information on website: www.existin08.com

INVITED ARTISTS

Áine Phillips (Ireland)
Alicia Jones (Australia)
Elvira Santamaría Torres (Mexico)
Fiona McGregor (Australia)
Helge Meyer (Germany)
James Cunningham (Australia)
Juliana Yasin (Singapore) &
Cassandra Schultz (Australia)
Jürgen Fritz (Germany)
Kylie Hicks (Australia)
Michael Mayhew (UK)
Muhammad Lugas Syllabus (Indonesia)
Richelle Spence (Australia)
Robert Millett (Australia)
Suzon Fuks (Australia) & Scotia Monkivitch (Australia)
Tamara Whyte (Australia)

DIAS ARTISTS

Abject Leader: Joel Stern/Sally Golding
Emma Che Martin
Genevieve Trace
Karen Gibbs
Party for One: Brittany Guy/Lauren Clelland
Maegan Connolly
Sarah Winter

Chairs:

Prof Brad Haseman/Australia
Dr Janet McDonald/Australia
Dr. Thomas Berguhis/ Australia

PERFORMANCE ON DVD

Agnes Nedregard (Norway)
Alexandra Zierle & Paul Carter (UK)
BBB Johannes Deimling (Germany)
Beatriz Albuquerque (Portugal)
Boris Nieslony (Germany)
Clemente Padin (Uruguay)
Ezzam Rahman (Singapore)
Fiona McGregor (Australia)
hancock & kelly live (UK)
Hayley West (Australia)
Henrik Hedinge (Sweden)
Jamie McMurry (USA)
John G. Boehme (Canada)
Karen Gibbs (Australia)
LEIBNIZ (UK)
Lezli Rubin-Kunda (Israel)
Lynn Lu (Singapore)
Oblivia (Finland)
Peter BAREN (The Netherlands)

Guests

Prof Christine Biehler - Lecturer, University of Hildesheim/GERMANY
Liz O'Neill - Director, PANDA performing arts network & development agency/UK
Nikki Milican - Artistic Director, New Moves International/UK