

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed until 11am on Thursday, 12 September 2019

Biennale of Sydney announces 98 artists, creatives and collectives for 2020

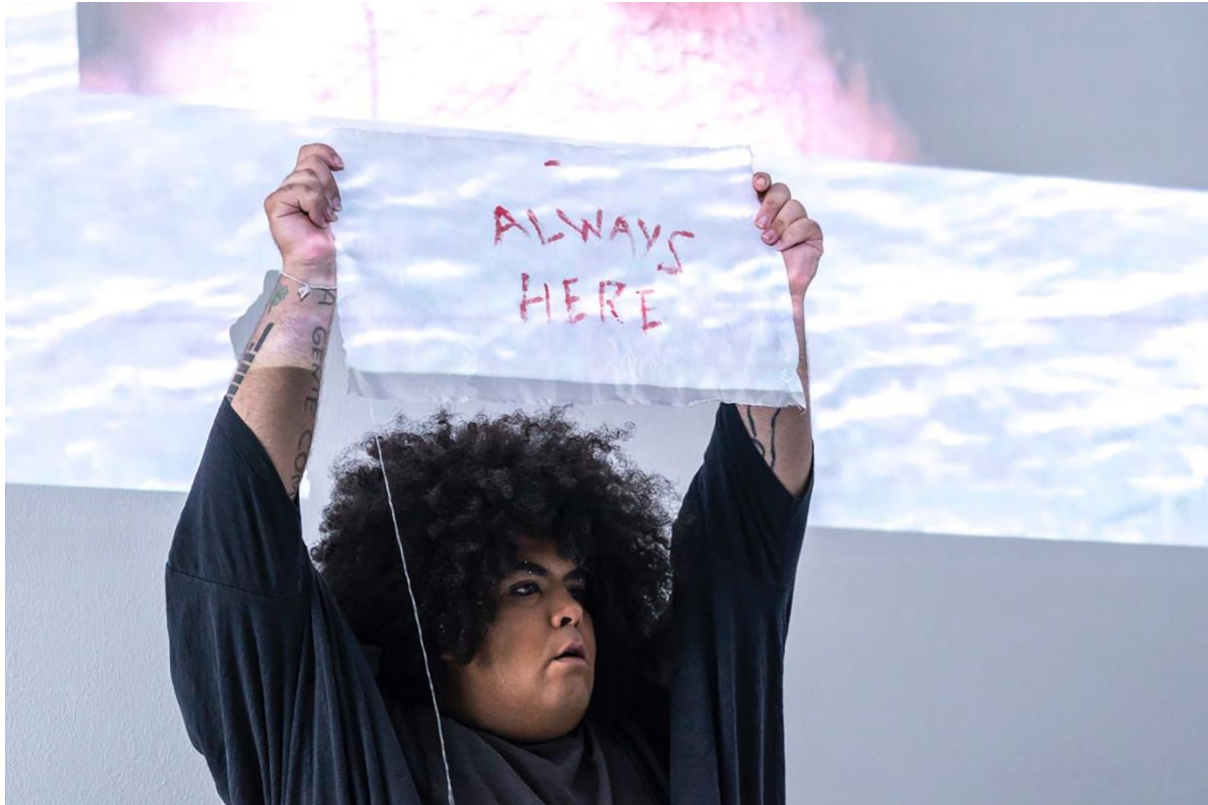


Image: *How old is suffering?* Jota Mombaça, Performance 2018. Photo by Anna Cerato.

Sydney, Australia: At a briefing today in Little Bay, NSW, on the land of the Bidjigal and Gadigal Clans, the Biennale of Sydney announced the full list of artists, creatives and collectives who will be participating in the 22nd Biennale of Sydney (2020), titled **NIRIN**.

Under the artistic direction of Brook Andrew, the exhibition will include artworks across six sites: Art Gallery of NSW, Artspace, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Cockatoo Island, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and the National Art School.

The 22nd Biennale of Sydney is artist- and First Nations-led, presenting an expansive exhibition of contemporary art that connects local communities and global networks.

‘The urgent states of our contemporary lives are laden with unresolved past anxieties and hidden layers of the supernatural,’ said Brook Andrew. ‘**NIRIN** is about to expose this, demonstrating that artists and creatives have the power to resolve, heal, dismember and imagine futures of transformation for re-setting the world. Sovereignty is at the centre of these actions. I hope that **NIRIN** (*edge*) gathers life forces of integrity to push through often impenetrable noise.’

For the first time, artists from Nepal, Georgia, Afghanistan, Sudan and Ecuador will participate in the Biennale of Sydney.

A number of the artists, creatives and collectives announced today were in attendance at the briefing: Tony Albert, Joël Andrianomearisoa, BE., Karla Dickens, FUNPARK Coalition, Lucas Ihlein and Kim

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Williams, Kylie Kwong, Parramatta Female Factory, Andrew Rewald, Justin Shoulder (Club Ate), STARTTS (NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors), Tennant Creek Brio and Luke Willis Thompson.

The briefing also included performances by MzRizk, Mahdia Rahman from Bankstown Poetry Slam, L Fresh the Lion from 4ESydney HipHop Festival and Brazilian performance artist Jota Mombaça.

The Biennale also announced an extensive program called **NIRIN WIR** spanning from the Blue Mountains to La Perouse.

NIRIN, meaning *edge*, and **WIR**, meaning *sky*, is a phrase from Brook Andrew's mother's Nation, the Wiradjuri people of central western New South Wales. The program focuses on Sydney as an expansive, global city comprised of vibrant, complex villages, and is a major partnership with the Powerhouse Museum, and a series of activations and creative partnerships with Blacktown Native Institution, Parramatta Female Factory, Bankstown Poetry Slam, 4ESydney HipHop Festival, City of Sydney Libraries, Randwick City Council, tertiary institutions around the country, grassroots organisations and more.

Grounded in connecting communities, the Biennale is also launching a learning program called **OUR PATH**, uniting an international network of artists and thinkers with Australian children and young people. The program offers a global context to local concerns, celebrating the valuable wisdom that exists in all communities.

'Each visit to **NIRIN** will be a new and different experience,' said Barbara Moore, Chief Executive Officer, Biennale of Sydney. 'In the year of the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook's landing, art is an essential catalyst for change. Through art, conversations and collaborative interventions, the Biennale will bring together people from across the city, state, country and the world in a safe place to discuss issues that matter.'

Participants in the 22nd Biennale of Sydney (2020) are:

- **Adrift Lab** Canada/Australia/United Kingdom
- **Tony Albert** Australia
- **Charlotte Allingham** Australia
- **Maria Thereza Alves** Brazil/Germany/Italy
- **Lhola Amira** South Africa
- **Joël Andrianomearisoa** Madagascar/France
- **ArTree Nepal** Nepal
- **Tarek Atoui** Lebanon/France
- **Sammy Baloji** Democratic Republic of Congo/Belgium
- **Denilson Baniwa** Brazil
- **Bankstown Poetry Slam** Australia
- **BE.** Australia
- **Namila Benson** Papua New Guinea
- **Sissel M Bergh** Norway
- **Huma Bhabha** Pakistan/USA
- **Blacktown Native Institution** Dharug Nation (Australia)
- **Karim Bleus** Haiti
- **Anna Boghiguan** Egypt/Canada
- **Mohamed Bourouissa** Algeria/France
- **Breaking Bread** South Africa
- **Eric Bridgeman and Haus Yuriyal** Papua New Guinea/Australia
- **Tania Bruguera** Cuba
- **Vajiko Chachkhiani** Georgia/Germany
- **Club Ate: Justin Shoulder and Bhenji Ra** Australia
- **Colectivo Ayllu** Argentina/Chile/Ecuador/Spain/Venezuela
- **Victoria Santa Cruz** (1922-2014) Peru
- **Randy Lee Cutler** Canada

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- **Jose Dávila** Mexico
- **Demian DinéYazhi´ and R.I.S.E.: Radical Indigenous Survivance & Empowerment** USA
- **Karla Dickens** Australia
- **Léuli Eshrághi** Australia
- **André Eugène** Haiti
- **FAFSWAG** New Zealand
- **Jes Fan** Canada/USA/China
- **First Dog on the Moon** Australia
- **Brian Fuata** Australia
- **FUNPARK Coalition** Australia
- **Nicholas Galanin** USA
- **Stuart Geddes and Trent Walter** Australia
- **Fátima Rodrigo Gonzales** Peru
- **Josep Grau-Garriga** (1929-2011) Spain/France
- **Ramin Haerizadeh, Rokni Haerizadeh and Hesam Rahmanian** Iran/United Arab Emirates
- **Lawrence Abu Hamdan** Jordan/Lebanon
- **Aziz Hazara** Afghanistan
- **Lily Hibberd** Australia/France
- **Lucas Ihlein and Kim Williams** Australia
- **Iltja Ntjarra / Namatjira School of Art** Australia
- **Arthur Jafa** USA
- **Hannah Catherine Jones** United Kingdom
- **Aslaug Magdalena Juliussen** Norway
- **Emily Karaka** New Zealand
- **Bronwyn Katz** South Africa
- **Kylie Kwong** Australia
- **Tarek Lakhrissi** France
- **Barbara McGrady** Australia
- **Ibrahim Mahama** Ghana
- **Stone Kulimoe'anga Maka** Tonga/New Zealand
- **Nongirrŋa Marawili** Darrpirra/Yirrkala (Australia)
- **Teresa Margolles** Mexico/Spain
- **Misheck Masamvu** Zimbabwe
- **Katarina Matiasek** Austria
- **Mayunkiki** Japan
- **John Miller and Elisapeta Heta** New Zealand
- **Jota Mombaça** Brazil
- **Mostaff Muchawaya** Zimbabwe
- **Prof Sir Zanele Muholi** South Africa
- **The Mulka Project** Yirrkala (Australia)
- **MzRizk** Australia
- **Elicura Chihuailaf Nahuelpán** Chile
- **Paulo Nazareth** Brazil
- **S.J Norman** Australia/Germany
- **Musa N Nxumalo** South Africa
- **Manuel Ocampo** Philippines
- **Erkan Özgen** Turkey
- **Parramatta Female Factory** Australia
- **Taqralik Partridge** Norway/Canada
- **Rosana Paulino** Brazil
- **Laure Prouvost** France/Belgium/United Kingdom
- **Public Redress System** Australia
- **Reading Oceania** Australia
- **Lisa Reihana** New Zealand
- **Andrew Rewald** Australia/Germany

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- **Shaheed / Witness / Kashmir** (India/Kashmir)
- **STARTTS (NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors)** Australia
- **Adrian Stimson** Canada/Siksika Nation (Canada)
- **Anders Sunna** Sweden
- **Suohpanterror** Sápmi (Finland/Sweden/Norway)
- **Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers** Kainai First Nation (Canada)/Sápmi (Norway)
- **Latai Taumoepeau** Australia
- **Tennant Creek Brio** Australia
- **Warwick Thornton** Australia
- **Kalisolaite 'Uhila** Tonga/New Zealand
- **Gina Athena Ulysse** Haiti/USA
- **Ahmed Umar** Sudan/Norway
- **Unbound Collective** Australia
- **Kunmanara Williams** (1952-2019) Pitjantjatjara (Australia)
- **Luke Willis Thompson** New Zealand/Fiji/United Kingdom
- **Pedro Wonaeamirri** Melville Island/Andranangruwu, Paluwiyanga (Australia)
Tribe: Milipurrulla, White Cockatoo. Dance: Jilarti, Brolga.

Exhibition venues for the 22nd Biennale of Sydney (2020) are:

- **Art Gallery of New South Wales** Sydney NSW
- **Artspace** Woolloomooloo NSW
- **Campbelltown Arts Centre** Campbelltown NSW
- **Cockatoo Island** Sydney Harbour NSW
- **Museum of Contemporary Art Australia** The Rocks NSW
- **National Art School** Darlinghurst NSW

NIRIN WIR highlights include:

- Site activations, performances, discursive gatherings, residencies, collaborations, research and ephemera at the Powerhouse Museum and Sydney Observatory centred on innovative practices, the convergence of ideas and people exploring new ways of navigating the world. The program includes a **NIRIN YARN** that is a demonstrative keynote between Dion Beasley, an Alywarr artist with disabilities who communicates through a truncated form of Auslan and prolific drawing, and writer Johanna Bell.
- A series of performances in collaboration with two iconoclastic grassroots organisations from Bankstown: 4ESydney HipHop Festival and Bankstown Poetry Slam.
- A partnership with PYT Fairfield and Parramatta Female Factory Precinct that celebrates and memorialises the experiences and survival of “Parra Girls” past and present. The program acknowledges the significant work of Bonney Djuric in transforming the Parramatta Female Factory into an internationally recognized Site of Conscience (United Nations).

Note: Countries where artists were born and are currently based are provided as a reflection of the many places Biennale participants come from. These places are not always wholly reflective of peoples' place-based identifications.

The **22nd Biennale of Sydney (2020): NIRIN** will be open – free to the public – from 14 March – 8 June 2020.

Register for the Media Preview (10 March 2020) at biennaleofsydney.art/nirin-media-preview.

Register for the Vernissage (11–13 March 2020) at biennaleofsydney.art/nirin-vernissage.

Register interest in the learning program **OUR PATH** at biennaleofsydney.art/register-our-path.

www.biennaleofsydney.art
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IMAGES

For high resolution images, go to <http://tiny.cc/NIRIN-media> or contact our media team.

MEDIA CONTACTS

For interviews with the artists participating in the 22nd Biennale of Sydney, please contact:

- Sasha Haughan, sasha@articulatepr.com.au +61 405 006 035
- Julia Barnes, julia@articulatepr.com.au +61 402 678 589
- Kym Elphinstone, kym@articulatepr.com.au +61 421 106 139

ABOUT THE BIENNALE OF SYDNEY

The Biennale of Sydney is one of the leading international contemporary art events in the world. It plays an indispensable role in Australia's engagement with the world, and a meaningful role in the life of the nation.

The Biennale presents the most dynamic contemporary art from around the globe in venues across Sydney with exhibitions that ignite and surprise people, sparking dialogue, cultivating connections and inspiring action through meaningful, shared arts experiences.

The Biennale of Sydney amplifies the voices of artists and tell the stories of our global communities, as they drive momentum for lasting cultural change.

Established in 1973, it is the third oldest biennial in the world after Venice and São Paulo and the largest exhibition of its kind in Australia. The Biennale of Sydney has commissioned and presented exceptional works of art by more than 1,800 national and international artists from more than 100 countries.

The Biennale of Sydney is committed to free access for all and, in 2018, attracted visitation of over 850,000. the highest level in its 45-year history. The Biennale attracts a broad audience: local, interstate, international, culturally diverse and intergenerational. The majority of visitors have a passionate interest in the arts, and rate the exhibition highly whether they are a first-time visitor or a Biennale veteran.

ABOUT BROOK ANDREW

Brook Andrew is the Artistic Director of the 22nd Biennale of Sydney (2020), titled NIRIN. He is an interdisciplinary artist who examines dominant narratives, often relating to colonialism and modernist histories. Through museum and archival interventions and curatorial projects, he aims to make forgotten stories visible and offer alternative pathways for interpreting history in the world today.

Drawing inspiration from vernacular objects and the archive he travels internationally to work with communities and various private and public collections. His recent research includes an ambitious international comparative Australian Research Council project *Representation, Remembrance and the Memorial*, responding to the repeated high-level calls for an Australian national memorial to Aboriginal loss and the frontier wars.

In 2017, Brook Andrew was the recipient of the prestigious Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship (SARF) and in 2016 was appointed Photography Residencies Laureate at the Musée du Quai Branly, Paris. In 2014 Brook worked closely with the collections of the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Museo de América and Museo Nacional de Antropología for the exhibition *Really Useful Knowledge* curated by WHW at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia. He curated *TABOO* in 2012/13 at the MCA Sydney. This was presented alongside a demanding public debate program

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called Blakatak that included esteemed First Nation and other creatives and was devised in conversation with John von Sturmer, a social anthropologist with a distinguished career in Aboriginal studies.

Brook is Associate Professor at MADA, Monash University; Honorary Senior Fellow within the Indigenous Studies Unit and the School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne; and Associate Researcher, Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford. He is currently a Charlie Perkins scholar undertaking a DPhil at the Ruskin School of Art, The University of Oxford.

Brook Andrew is represented by Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney and Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris and Brussels.