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18/03/2016 - 05/06/2016

Artistic Director: Dr Stephanie Rosenthal

Inspired by a comment by science-fiction author William Gibson, the title of the twentieth Biennale of Sydney, The future is already here — it's just not evenly distributed, suggested that technology had already surpassed our ideas of the future, and served as a reminder that access to information, the internet and other more basic resources is not universal. The 2016 edition took place across seven distinct 'embassies of thought', designated as safe spaces for thinking, and reflected on immigration politics. Named after themes emerging from Rosenthal's conversations with artists, the embassies were titled 'Spirits'; 'Non Participation'; 'Translation'; 'the Real'; 'Transition'; 'Disappearance'; and 'Stanislaw Lem'. Twelve 'in-between' spaces – ranging from a library to a cemetery and a gap between two walls – provided further avenues through which to explore the distinction between the virtual and physical worlds, one of the key ideas of the exhibition. Performance featured strongly, with highlights including the Australian premiere of manger, 2014, by Boris Charmatz; Victory Over the Sun, 2016, a revisioning of the legendary 1913 Futurist (anti-) opera by Justene Williams with Sydney Chamber Opera; and Here, an Echo, 2016, a series of performances Agatha Gothe-Snape presented with dancer and choreographer Brooke Stamp. The project is now installed in Wemyss Lane, Surry Hills, as the second legacy project of the City of Sydney.

Locations Art Gallery of NSW, Artspace, Carriageworks, Cockatoo Island, Mortuary Station, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia. In-between spaces: Mobile Book Stall; 130 Abercrombie Street, Chippendale; 16 Vine Street, Redfern; 86 George Street, Redfern; 95 Commonwealth Street, Surry Hills; Camperdown Cemetery, Newtown; MCA Forecourt; Newtown Library; Redfern Wall; Royal Botanic Garden Sydney; catalogue intervention; online venue.

Artists and Countries 83 artists 37 countries

Artistic Director



Dr Stephanie Rosenthal

Internationally acclaimed curator Dr Stephanie Rosenthal has held the position of Chief Curator at the Hayward Gallery in London since 2007. A key focus of her curatorial practice is the exploration of the relationship between visual art and performance.

Notable exhibitions that Rosenthal has curated at the Hayward Gallery include 'MIRRORCITY' (2014); Ana Mendieta: Traces (2013); 'Art of Change: New Directions from China' (2012); 'Pipilotti Rist: Eyeball Massage' (2011); 'MOVE: Choreographing You' (2010); 'Walking in My Mind' (2009); and 'Robin Rhode: Who Saw Who' (2009).

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Participating Artists

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Adam Linder	Agatha Gothe-Snape	Barbara Cleveland	Benoît Lachambre	Bharti Kher	Bo Christian Larsson	Boris Charmatz
boychild	Camille Henrot	Cécile B. Evans	Celine Condorelli	Cevdet Erek	Charles Lim	Chen Chieh-jen
Daniel Boyd	Diana Smith	Don't Follow the Wind	Ellarose Savage	Emma McNally	Erub Arts	Florence Gutchen
Frances Barrett	FX Harsono	Gerald Machona	Germaine Kruip	Helen Marten	Heman Chong	Johanna Calle
Joyce Campbell	Jumana Manna	Kate Blackmore	Kazimir Malevich	Keg de Souza	Lauren Brincat	Lee Bul
Lee Mingwei	Marco Chiandetti	Mella Jaarsma	Mette Edvardsen	Minouk Lim	Neha Choksi	Nilbar Güreş
Nina Beier	Noa Eshkol	Philipp Gehmacher	Racy Oui-Pitt	Ricardo Basbaum	Richard Bell	Samuel Beckett
Sheila Hicks	Wan-Shuen Tsai	William Forsythe	Yannick Dauby	Yannick Dauby and Wan-Shuen Tsai	Yin-Ju Chen	

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Since its inception in 1973, the Biennale of Sydney has provided a platform for art and ideas, showcasing the work of 2,400 artists from more than 130 countries. Today it is considered one of the leading international contemporary art events, recognised for commissioning and presenting innovative, thought provoking art from Australia and around the globe.



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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country, in particular the Gadigal people on whose land the Biennale of Sydney is located. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture and pay our respect to Elders, past, present, and emerging.

First Nations people are respectfully advised that this site includes works, names and images of deceased people. This includes cultural practices and artistic intellectual property of a sensitive nature.