

# Melbourne Now

## Artist and program information

Announced 20 June 2013

---

### Lauren Berkowitz

Lauren Berkowitz is an installation artist, working mostly with ephemeral and site-specific works that evoke the passage of time and our place within it. Engaging with ideas of regeneration, renewal and sustainability, Berkowitz will create a sensory indoor garden using a diverse range of edible plants. Berkowitz will work with local communities to grow plants and collect an array of recycled plastic bottles and take away containers for her garden installation.

### Destiny Deacon

Internationally renowned leading Australian indigenous artist Destiny Deacon has a longstanding practice engaging photography, video and installation. While being unflinching in her specific deconstructions of the fabrication of Australian history and Aboriginal identity, her themes of resistance and escapism resonate with the struggles of oppressed peoples around the world. For *Melbourne Now* Deacon will create an immersive installation working with and against stereotypical images of Aboriginal people in skittishly crafted, low-fi tableaux.

### Julia deVille

Julia deVille is a jeweller and sculptor whose work is informed by a fascination with mortality. DeVille will present a new installation featuring her renowned taxidermied sculptural assemblages, involving audience participation and consideration of the ethics of our relationship with animals.

### Matt Hinkley

Matt Hinkley's works confound the eye in their meticulous and painstaking delicacy. Renowned for an extraordinary body of drawing and sculpture which bring together traditions of the miniature, minimalism and trompe l'oeil, Hinkley will create a field of new sculptural works that interpret domestic objects through finely honed surfaced impressions and archaeological fragments.

### Rory Hyde

Rory Hyde is a practicing architect working across design, research, broadcasting and building. He studied architecture at RMIT University in Melbourne, where he also completed a PhD on emerging models of practice enabled by new technologies. Hyde will be producing a dynamic architectural structure in Federation Court at NGV International.

### Hotham Street Ladies

Hotham Street Ladies are five women who make scrumptious food-inspired works including cake creations, sculptures and street art. For *Melbourne Now* the ladies will transform The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia foyer into an icing-coated share house through a mega frosting of Federation Square's glazing, piping of architectural adornment, and a series of riotous dioramas which twist and deconstruct the stereotypes of street grunge and the suburban housewife.

**Simone LeAmon**

Simone LeAmon is a leading Australian artist and design practitioner who is recognised for her inter-disciplinary approach. LeAmon will be involved as guest curator of an exhibition exploring the interface between art, design and industrial manufacture in Melbourne.

**Toni Maticovski**

Toni Maticovski is a fashion designer whose mix of high glamour and exacting technical know-how has earned him international recognition. Maticovski will create a giant installation for NGV Australia. The work will be a magnification of the fundamentals of Maticovski's practice and allow the public to closely engage with the intimate details of construction, such as silhouette, fabric, drape and decorative techniques.

**Ewan McEoin**

Ewan McEoin has been engaged as Consultant Curator of Design, responsible for oversight, development and coordination of design-related exhibitions, commissions and projects.

**Tom Nicholson**

Tom Nicholson's work often engages with aspects of Australia's early colonial history, using combinations of drawings, monumental forms, and posters to articulate these histories in relation to the present, as part of an address to our collective future. In *Melbourne Now*, he will present *Comparative monument (Palestine)*, a new project that links to other recent work by Nicholson in its attempt to re-think the possibilities of the monument in the face of histories of dispossession, and the acts of imagination and solidarity these histories demand. Presented in Ramallah in 2012, this will be its first Melbourne showing.

**John Nixon**

Senior Australian avant-garde artist John Nixon is involved with *Melbourne Now* in two capacities: as a guest curator of an exhibition of drawing, involving 50 Melbourne artists across generations; and through his art-music collective *The Donkey's Tail*, which includes a new project as part of *Melbourne Now* kids.

**Patrick Pound**

Using elaborate and esoteric archives, amassed across years of obsessive and meticulous searching and scavenging, Patrick Pound's painstakingly accumulated collections present fragments of the world, which have been reorganised in search of some kind of greater order or logic. For *Melbourne Now* he will present *The Gallery of Air*, a vast exhibition of objects from both the artist's personal collection and the collections of the NGV. Each object will be found to hold the idea of air, whether an old master painting depicting the effect of the wind, or an exquisitely painted fan. Merged in with scores of examples from the Gallery's collections will be hundreds of things from the artist's ever expanding collection, each of which capture an idea of air.

**Yhonnie Scarce**

Through research into her Kokatha/Nukunu family's experiences, Yhonnie Scarce's politically expressive glass works engage with the wider issue of the containment of Aboriginal people, including their dispersal from Country and consequent death. Scarce's work for *Melbourne Now* memorialises a distressing massacre that occurred at Elliston, South Australia in 1849 and thereby provides a place to mourn all who have died as a result of the continually present colonial condition.

**Caleb Shea**

Caleb Shea's sculptures draw inspiration from various modernist reference points from Constructivism to Minimalism, from Brancusi to David Smith. Colour, line and form are pivotal to his experiments with the configuration of objects in space. Shea will produce a dynamic field of sculptures for the NGV International Grollo Equiset Garden, engaging in playful dialogues with both the architecture and the sculptures in the NGV Collection.

**Ronnie van Hout**

Ronnie van Hout works in sculpture and installation formats but also makes videos, paintings, photographs and sound recordings. Often humorous and autobiographical, much of his work revolves around self-portraiture. Van Hout will be represented in the exhibition by a major recent installation which engages with modernism and the role of education whilst also drawing upon the artist's own adolescent experiences.

**Fleur Watson**

Fleur Watson is an architecture and design curator, author and the former editor of *Monument* magazine (2001-2007). Most recently, she was appointed Curator for RMIT University's Design Hub. Watson will be involved as guest curator of an exhibition focussing on architecture.

**Community Hall**

A unique initiative developed as part of *Melbourne Now* is *Community Hall*, a rich and colourful forum to explore the creative pulse of Melbourne. A daily changing roll call of characters from across Melbourne will be invited to share their wares and tell their stories. From cultural choirs, to cake decorating bake-offs, *Community Hall* will also offer an opportunity for Melbourne's largest vegetables to have their 'time in the sun'.

**Forums and events**

Gallery spaces throughout both buildings will be inhabited for conversations, lectures and pop-up artist talks discussing art, architecture, design, fashion, urbanism and sustainability in Melbourne.

A series of children's commissions will take our young (and older) audiences on a journey through the Gallery, offering a level of engagement with contemporary art unprecedented at the NGV. This series of interactive installations will engage children and adults alike. Commissions will include works by Julia deVille, John Nixon and the Hotham Street Ladies.