



**THE MCA ANNOUNCES PERFORMANCE PROGRAM  
TO COINCIDE WITH REOPENING  
29 March – 03 June 2012**

The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) is pleased to announce the inclusion of *Local Positioning Systems* to the opening program. *Local Positioning Systems* curated by Performance Space adds a season of performance, participatory and site-specific art celebrating the launch of the new MCA. This is the first partnership between Performance Space and the MCA.

*Local Positioning Systems* brings performance and live art to the MCA under different guises and in several locations. The project takes as its starting point the newly reconfigured architecture of the MCA, and breaks down the threshold between the Museum and its surrounding environment and communities. *Local Positioning Systems* forges new relations with the audiences and artworks, defining the MCA's engagement with the broader social and built environment—the performances take place in the Museum's forecourt, first aid room, library, education facilities and the surrounding landscape of Sydney Harbour and The Rocks.

The program features six Australian artists - Julie-Anne Long, Jason Maling, Bennett Miller, Stuart Ringholt, Latai Taumoepeau, Lara Thoms - and the UK- based collaborative Walker & Bromwich.



Zoe Walker and Neil Bromwich's *Celestial Radio* is a seductive and functional sculptural object, a radio station housed on a sailing boat whose surface is covered by 60,000 inch-square mirror tiles. The Celeste travels literally across the high seas while conceptually exploring the metaphorical oceans of life's big questions, both cosmic and microscopic. *Local Positioning Systems* brings *Celestial Radio* to Sydney Harbour, where the artists will collaborate with local residents to create a new soundscape that will be broadcast from the boat. ***Celestial Radio* runs 29 March - 15 April 2012.**

Julie-Anne Long's *Val, The Invisible* is a quietly subversive middle-aged woman who blurs the boundaries of performance by transforming art into every day events, and every day events into art. She enacts the things we do in life that are taken for granted. This durational performance intervention reflects on the small secret pleasures that are ours and ours alone, the illicit invisibilities that we get away with, while engaged in the business of everyday life. ***Val, The Invisible* runs 7 - 23 April 2012.**

Stuart Ringholt's work confronts themes of fear and embarrassment. In *Preceded by a tour of the show by artist Stuart Ringholt 6-8pm (the artist will be naked. Those who wish to join the tour must also be naked. Adults only)* audiences are invited to gain a new perspective on the current MCA exhibitions by viewing them entirely nude. Occurring outside of the Museum's opening hours, these tours give the rare opportunity to (literally) remove the material barriers between artist and audience. ***Preceded by a tour of the show by artist Stuart Ringholt 6-8pm (the artist will be naked. Those who wish to join the tour must also be naked. Adults only)* runs 27, 28 and 29 April 2012 at 6pm. Bookings open 29 February 2012.**

In *The Experts Project* artist Lara Thoms seeks out unofficial expertise from members of the public. Over the course of her residency at the new MCA library and in locations around The Rocks, Thoms will meet with a cross section of locals, visitors and museum employees to discuss their unrecognised skills and knowledge. Some of these conversations culminate in the participant taking a photographic portrait of Thoms, dressed as themselves, often in their own home. In May, Thoms will share all that she has learnt over this period—showcasing photographs, instructional texts and accounts of the process. Visitors to the MCA will be able to experience at random the 50 lessons in the MCA seminar room over a series of presentations. *The Experts Project* draws attention to the passions, skills and wisdom found outside degrees and day jobs. ***The Experts Project* runs 6 - 13 May 2012.**

In *Physician*, artist Jason Maling undertakes private consultations with gallery visitors, offering poetic treatments for contemporary anxieties associated with visiting galleries and museums. Maling describes maladies such as "Metaphobia" and "Generalised Indifference Disorder" as becoming increasingly more familiar to art patrons the world over. As a refurbished international art institution, the Museum of Contemporary Art has recognised the need to provide onsite services to address these anxieties, ranging from mild conceptual perturbation to severe relational deficiency. In an intimate one-on-one exchange with the artist, MCA visitors are invited to be the first to participate in this trial program and will be offered a series of pneumatic rituals designed to activate belief receptors in the body, clearing unwanted metaphoric deposits and restoring full socio-poetic function. ***Physician* runs 5 - 18 May 2012. Register on the day at the MCA information desk for all appointments.**



Latai Taumoepeau's *i-Land X-isle* is a large-scale performance installation campaign that engages with the ambivalent attitudes and excessive consumption of resources by first world countries and the direct impact of climate change to vulnerable, island communities. It draws connection between melting ice glaciers in the Arctic and rising sea levels on SIDS (Small Island Developing States). The project involves large blocks of ice, suspended using traditional Tongan architectural lashing techniques for binding and durational performance referencing water torture. The project will be located adjacent to the MCA in visual reference to the waters of Sydney Harbour. ***i-Land X-isle* runs 25 and 26 May 2012. Weather dependant, dates subject to change.**

Bennett Miller's *Dachshund U.N.* is both a large-scale architectural installation and a performance work that examines the role of the United Nations as a risk management organisation. A four level amphitheatre will be constructed in the forecourt of the MCA. On 2 and 3 June, this structure will play host to a meeting of the U.N.'s Human Rights Council, wherein all 47 of the national delegates are live dachshunds. *Dachshund U.N.* is both a joyful and chaotic experiment, and a meditation on the utopian aspirations of the United Nations, and our capacity as humans to imagine and achieve a universal system of justice. Audiences are invited to exclusive live viewings of the operations of the *Dachshund U.N.*, where the specially recruited dachshunds will engage in rigorous debate. ***Dachshund U.N.* runs 2 and 3 June 2012. Weather dependant, dates subject to change.**

## ABOUT PERFORMANCE SPACE

Performance Space is Australia's leading organisation for the development and presentation of interdisciplinary arts. They have been around for almost thirty years in Sydney, and have been located at Carriageworks for the last five years. Their program incorporates a broad range of experimental arts practice. They commission new works by contemporary visual and installation artists and run a performance program which produces and presents new work from theatre to contemporary dance, and everything in-between.

**For further information, please visit [www.mca.com.au](http://www.mca.com.au) or [www.performancespace.com.au](http://www.performancespace.com.au)**

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