

NEW MCA ANNOUNCES OPENING DATE AND EXHIBITION DETAILS

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The new MCA as it will appear in March 2012

Sydney, Australia: The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) today announced that it will reopen on **Thursday 29 March 2012** as a bold, new and expanded museum. Following a AUD\$53 million redevelopment, the Museum will be transformed into a major cultural centre for contemporary art and creative learning.

The MCA is Australia's only museum dedicated to exhibiting, collecting and interpreting the work of today's artists. The widely anticipated reopening of the Museum will be a highlight on the international art calendar. This milestone will be celebrated with a week-long series of launch events culminating in a dynamic schedule of free artist talks and public programs throughout the opening weekend of **31 March and 1 April 2012**.

MCA Director, Elizabeth Ann Macgregor, today also unveiled the opening exhibitions. The new MCA will open with **Marking Time** (31 March until 3 June 2012) - an international exhibition which presents major works by eleven artists in the spacious new top floor galleries. Selected by MCA Senior Curator Rachel Kent, the exhibition will explore the ways in which artists visualise time and its passing, across diverse media – drawing and watercolour, sculpture and installation, sound and light.

The new MCA will also highlight its collection, beginning with **Volume One: MCA Collection**, which will feature works by more than 150 Australian artists. Curated by MCA Curator Glenn Barkley, this new presentation will reflect the strength and breadth of Australian contemporary art over the past 20 years. It includes work by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, the consolidation of film and video practice from a marginal to central position and the emergence of diverse cultural voices as well as ephemeral and performative practices.



Jim Campbell Scattered Light 2010

Video Installation: custom electronics, LEDs, light bulbs, wire, steel

Temporary public project commissioned by the Madison Square Park Conservancy, Madison Square Art, New York, 2010 Image courtesy the artist and Madison Square Park Conservancy, New York © the artist
Photography: James Ewing

Ms Macgregor also today announced the opening of the Museum's stunning **new rooftop venues**. Created to take advantage of their location, the venues offer spectacular views across Sydney Harbour from the Opera House to the Harbour Bridge.

'I am delighted to confirm the redeveloped MCA will open in March 2012 with a dynamic program of exhibitions showcasing work by Australian artists alongside their international peers. As we move into the final months of construction, it is thrilling to see the new MCA take shape. The creation of wonderful new spaces for art and for creative learning, right on the harbour is a landmark in the Museum's history. The cutting-edge architecture complements the existing building and the use of new technology sets a new standard for collaboration with audiences. The new MCA will be a world-class hub of art and creative learning which responds to the Museum's growing audience and reaches out across the country,' said Ms Macgregor.

A key feature of the new MCA's program is a series of commissions by Australian artists. **Brook Andrew** will install a permanent work on the Circular Quay façade which draws attention to the colonial naval dock remains underneath the new extension. The work is a poetic response to one aspect of the interpretation of the heritage of the site.

The artist who represented Australia in the 2011 Venice Biennale, **Hany Armanious**, will create the first work for the new Sculpture Terrace, a spectacular space for art overlooking Sydney Harbour. Each year an artist will be invited to create a site-specific installation to be exhibited for a period of at least 12 months. The MCA Sculpture Series will stimulate ambitious and significant new work to fire the public imagination.



Tracey Moffatt Something More #3 1989
cibachrome photograph Museum of Contemporary Art, purchased 1992

The first commission for the MCA's Bella Room, a learning space for children with specific needs, will be a playful, sensory and tactile environment by Melbourne artist **Emily Floyd**.

Grant Stevens will create a video work for the new MCA foyer featuring the names of the donors who have contributed to the Museum's redevelopment. It will complement Imants Tillers' Pure Beauty in the previous Museum entrance, which was commissioned in 1993 after the existing building was converted into the MCA.

Helen Eager will create a large-scale wall painting for the Circular Quay entrance. The commission, the artist's largest artwork to-date, will be added to the MCA's collection of wall drawings and will provide a strong statement in the entrance for the first year.

The MCA would like to thank the following galleries for their support of the MCA's commissioned artworks: Brook Andrew - Tolarno Galleries Melbourne, Hany Armanious – Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery Sydney, Emily Floyd - Anna Schwartz Gallery Sydney and Melbourne, Grant Stevens - Gallery Barry Keldoulis, and Helen Eager - Utopia Arts Sydney.

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