



4A CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ART ANNOUNCES CONCEPT AND ARTIST SELECTION FOR SYDNEY PAVILION AT THE 9TH SHANGHAI BIENNALE- THE FLOATING EYE

Monday 13 August 2012

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art is pleased to announce the official artist selection and curatorial concept for the Sydney Pavilion, to be presented at the 9th Shanghai Biennale, opening on 1 October 2012.

4A has been selected by the Shanghai Biennale to present the Sydney Pavilion, as part of the inaugural City Pavilions project, a new artistic component at this year's Biennale. 4A's curatorial framework and artist selection for the Sydney Pavilion is under the direction of Aaron Seeto (Curator, Sydney Pavilion), with Sharon Chen, (Curatorial Project Manager) and Toby Chapman (Assistant Curator).

Seeto announced today that the Sydney Pavilion will be titled *The Floating Eye*. The exhibition will take as its starting point the reorientation of geography in Australia, as a result of understanding recent history in the context of global and cultural connection, and the shifting unstable references at play in Australia's oldest settler city.

Seeto states as his curatorial vision, that "in a location like Sydney, Australia, with its Aboriginal history, colonisation, waves of mass migration, shifting economic bases and trade, awareness of the natural environment, natural disasters there is no single narrative and straightforward representative space of its history. As people come and go, so does the routes of its capital and ideas shift – new narratives emerge and recede."

The Pavilion will showcase new and commissioned works by six internationally recognised contemporary Australian artists with strong connections to Sydney.

The 6 artists selected are:

Brook Andrew
Shaun Gladwell
Bababa International
Shen Shaomin
Raquel Ormella
Khaled Sabsabi

cont...

Together the work presented in The Floating Eye illustrates the layering of histories, social and diverse cultural experience which is a reflection of contemporary life in global cities like Sydney.

The Floating Eye considers the personal accounts generated by individual artists, to mark out the engagements and the discontinuities they each experience as they attempt to negotiate ideas of locality and culture in globalised, diverse contexts.

In this way, The Floating Eye might exist as a point of opposition to an idea of cultural safety. The artists in this exhibition ask, 'How do I belong here? How am I connected elsewhere? Do I still belong here or there?'

For media inquiries and interview requests, please contact Hannah Skrzynski on Hannah@4a.com.au or 0412 825 586.

For Chinese media inquiries, contact Sharon Chen on artzone99@gmail.com or 0433 399 956

Image: Khaled Sabsabi, *Mush* (installation view, Artpspace, Sydney) (2011), 5-channel HD video, 4:3, colour, sound. Courtesy of the artist and Milani Gallery, Brisbane.

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ABOUT 4A CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ART

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art fosters excellence and innovation in contemporary Asian and Australian culture through research, documentation, development, discussion and presentation of contemporary visual art.

We believe that Asian cultural thinking will have an important impact on the future. 4A's aim is to ensure contemporary visual art plays a central role in understanding the dynamic relationship between Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

4A has a distinctive approach to addressing Australia's cultural diversity through a dynamic program including local and international exhibitions, public programs, workshops, seminars, symposiums and community activities. These have been recognised locally and internationally as having raised awareness of Asian-Australian art and culture and Australia's place in the Asia-Pacific region.

4A is a pioneering institutions focusing on the promotion of a greater understanding of Asia, and Australia's role in the region. Since 4A's inception in 1996 the organisation has gained valuable insight, networks, knowledge and understanding of cultural organisations and throughout the Asia region. We are part of a close-knit circle of organisations and individuals who have been working in the region for over a decade.

History

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art is an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists Association (4A), a non-profit organisation established in 1996 to present and promote the work of Asian and Asian-Australian artists. This organisation was established by a group of artists who were keen to address the cultural contribution of Asian migration to Australia and to develop Asian and Australian cultural relations.



The Asian Australian Artists Association is supported by



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ABOUT THE 9TH SHANGHAI BIENNALE

The Shanghai Biennale is the largest international arts event in mainland China, and is expected to attract over 8 million visitors during its 6 month showing. It will officially open on 1 October 2012, and will be housed for the first time in the newly built Shanghai Museum of Contemporary Art, the first public museum of contemporary art in mainland China, built on the site of the former Pavilion of the Future at World Expo 2010.

The City Pavilions Project will be housed in a precinct of historic Art Deco buildings near the Bund, with the Sydney Pavilion occupying prime space within the precinct, facing on to the busy central thoroughfare of Nanjing Road.

This year, the Shanghai Biennale is under the direction of an international curatorial theme, led by Chief Curator Qiu Zhijie, one of China's most dynamic and influential contemporary artists. Other co-curators include German art critic Boris Groys, Jens Hoffman, Director of the Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, and Johnson Chang, curator and co-founder of the Asia Art Archive in Hong Kong.

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