

For Immediate Release

Campbelltown Arts Centre and 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art present Edge of Elsewhere for Sydney Festival 2012.

The final installment of Edge of Elsewhere, a major three-year project by Campbelltown Arts Centre and 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, will open January 14th 2012 as part of Sydney Festival's program.

Leading international and Australian artists have been commissioned by Campbelltown Arts Centre and 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art to produce new work in partnership with Sydney's communities. For the past three years, thirteen artists from across Asia, Australia, and the Pacific have developed significant projects that challenge how we think about contemporary community-engaged practice. Participating artists include Brook Andrew, Arahmaiani, Richard Bell, Dacchi Dang, Newell Harry, FX Harsono, Shigeyuki Kihara, Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba, Lisa Reihana, Khaled Sabsabi, Phaptawan Suwannakudt, Michel Tuffery and YOUNG-HAE CHANG HEAVY INDUSTRIES. Edge of Elsewhere is curated by Lisa Haviilah and Aaron Seeto, and will be presented across two venues at Campbelltown Arts Centre and 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art.

Director of Campbelltown Arts Centre, Michael Dagostino, said *"2012 will see the final presentation of Edge of Elsewhere, the conclusion of a 3 year commitment to community engagement and consultation to develop bold creative initiatives and artistic outcomes. By testing new models of engagement and participation these newly commissioned works will represent our long term commitment to introducing new forms of art into the community"*.

Aaron Seeto, Director of 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, comments - *"As this project has evolved, we have worked with some of the most exciting contemporary artists working in the region, and have seen them take on board some of the difficult terrain inherent within working collaboratively and within the context of Australia's diverse cultural and community context. Edge of Elsewhere has generated interest internationally because it raises some of the important questions of our time – the confluence of traditional thinking, global politics, history, migration and diaspora. It has been an exciting and experimental period of reflection and production."*

In October 2011, **Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba** was in Canberra to develop an instalment of *Breathing is Free: 12,756.3* an ongoing and monumental project in which the artist will run the diameter of the earth. For Edge of Elsewhere, Nguyen-Hatsushiba ran the 90.8km outline of Christmas Island overlayed on Canberra's streets. The grueling project reflects the physical and emotional struggles humans endure, particularly communities facing trauma. Nguyen-Hatsushiba comments that *"Running has been a part of many aspects of human existence. We have run to hunt, to fight, to compete, to conquer, to condition, to escape, to survive... to move, to migrate. Inevitably, it is a given power of humanity, a force invisible as potential energy in coal."* This major new commission will be presented across both venues.

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New Zealand-based artist **Michel Tuffery** will transform a government housing estate in Minto into a hybrid living environment in which bulls and livestock will cohabit with local youths. The unique installation will make connections between the shared histories and stories of Campbelltown's communities with those from communities of the wider Pacific region. Tuffery will create a surreal and elaborate movie-set scenario that will draw upon the local agricultural history.

Khaled Sabsabi will continue developing the work he presented for Edge of Elsewhere in 2011, and for which he won the 2011 Blake Prize. *Naqshbandi Greenacre Engagement* provides a tender and sensitive look into the private ceremonial setting of the Naqshbandi Sufi order in Sydney. Sabsabi has subsequently spent an extended period in Lebanon and Syria to bring further insight and new understanding of the Naqshbandi Sufi path to audiences through an immersive video work.

Korea-based artists **YOUNG-HAE CHANG HEAVY INDUSTRIES** returned to Sydney in 2011 to conduct a city-wide search for a Korean man who immigrated to Australia in the early 1990's. The artists discovered his story via a lengthy conversation with a taxi driver in Korea, and decided to find this dynamic character through the stories told by the residents of his local community in Sydney. The artists developed an investigative approach through interviews and informal conversations that lead them on a journey across Sydney.

Working closely with the innovative animation and film company Imagi Studios, **Brook Andrew** has scripted and designed a major new animation that tells the story of an Aboriginal boy named Banjo, set around Sydney's Western suburbs. For *Edge of Elsewhere*, Andrew will present a series of large scale animation stills that reflect 2 years of research, collaboration and production development.

Phaptawan Suwannakudt, a Sydney based artist trained in the traditional art form of Thai temple painting, has been collecting stories and personal garments from local communities in Campbelltown and the inner western suburbs of Sydney. The fabric and stories will be interwoven with her iconic painting style into a significantly large mural that will be exhibited at Campbelltown Arts Centre.

Campbelltown Arts Centre

14 January – 18 March 2012, 10am – 4pm daily

Exhibition launch: Friday 13th January 2012, 7pm

Artists in conversation: Saturday 14th January, 10am – 2pm

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art

14 January – 3 March 2012, 11am – 6pm Tuesday-Saturday

Exhibition launch: Thursday 12th January 2012, 6pm

Edge of Elsewhere is produced for Sydney Festival by Campbelltown Arts Centre and 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, and is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, through Community Partnerships and the Visual Arts Board, and the NSW Government through Arts NSW



Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba, *Breathing is Free: 12,756.3 – Canberra Christmas Island 90.8 km* (2011) Courtesy the artist, Mizuma Art Gallery, Tokyo. Photographer Cole Bennetts. Commissioned by Campbelltown Arts Centre and 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art for Edge of Elsewhere

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FX Harsono, *Writing In The Rain* (2011), video still, courtesy the artist.



Khaled Sabsabi, *corner* (2011), production documentation. Courtesy the artist. Commissioned by Campbelltown Arts Centre and 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art for Edge of Elsewhere.

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