

# SYDNEY'S 4A CELEBRATES CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH *RICKSHAW TALES* EXPERIENCE

January 28 – February 14, 2017



MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Rickshaw Tales

- Louise Zhang artist-designed rickshaw food tours of Haymarket: 28 January – 14 February 2017
- Family Program activities at Chinese Garden of Friendship: 4 & 5 February 2017



Rickshaw rides departing from:  
4A CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ASIAN  
ART  
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

In 2017, Sydney's 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art celebrates Chinese New Year with *Rickshaw Tales*. 4A invites you to jump aboard a customised, artist-commissioned rickshaw for curated local food tours throughout Haymarket as 4A celebrates Chinese New Year 2017.

Made possible with the support of the City of Sydney and presented as part of the 2017 Sydney Chinese New Year Festival, *Rickshaw Tales* is a food tour like no other. The special artist-designed bicycle rickshaw, commissioned by Chinese-Australian artist Louise Zhang, will turn heads on the Chinatown streets. Zhang's lolly-esque globular painting style is evocative of the Asian sweets riders will get to sample as they learn about the stories behind the food at some of Haymarket's most-loved snack stops.

With bookings available for weekend and Thursday night tours (plus a Valentines' Day special edition), participants will watch a newly made video work, following 4A Director Mikala Tai on a day of food adventures in Chinatown as they ride, making stops at the cafes, restaurants and hole-in-the-wall shops featured. Included in

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the ticket price is a sample snack at every location, and the opportunity to get to know more about Sydney's favourite Chinatown treats.

With a limited number of rickshaw rides available during the festival, 4A is also offering a *Rickshaw Tales* walking tour option, with an alternative version of the tour led on foot by 4A's team of snack enthusiasts.

The *Rickshaw Tales* video will also be available online and at select City of Sydney CNY 2017 locations for those who want to learn more about the people and skills behind one of Sydney's top food destinations.

For families, visit the Chinese Garden of Friendship for a special *Rickshaw Tales* weekend program on February 4 and 5. For just a gold coin donation, families can decorate a life-size cardboard rickshaw with Chinese New Year motifs designed by Louise Zhang, and appreciate the wonders of the Garden on an artist-led story walk.

*Rickshaw Tales* continues the role of 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art in the City of Sydney's annual Chinese New Year celebrations, developing exciting artistic experiences that celebrate creativity, culture and Sydney's vibrant Chinatown community.

## **Rickshaw Tales dates, times, and associated events:**

*Rickshaw Tales* tours – bookings open online at: <http://www.4a.com.au/rickshawtales/>

- Saturday 28 January
  - 11AM, 12PM, 1PM
- Sunday 29 January
  - 11AM, 12PM, 1PM
- Thursday 2 February
  - 5.30PM, 6.30PM
- Saturday 4 February
  - 11AM, 12PM, 1PM
- Sunday 5 February
  - 11AM, 12PM, 1PM
- Thursday 9 February
  - 5.30PM, 6.30PM
- Saturday 11 February
  - 11AM, 12PM, 1PM
- Sunday 12 February
  - 11AM, 12PM, 1PM
- Tuesday 14 February
  - 5.30PM, 6.30PM

## **Family Program at the Chinese Garden of Friendship**

- Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 February, 2017
- 10AM – 5PM
- Chinese Garden of Friendship, Haymarket.
- Entry free with gold coin donation during the Festival.
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Decorate a life-size cardboard rickshaw with Louise Zhang's Chinese New Year motifs, and go on an artist-led story walk.

To register for our media preview, or arrange an interview with the artist or 4A Director Mikala Tai, contact Bridie Moran, Marketing, Communications and Development Manager at 4A: [bridie.moran@4a.com.au](mailto:bridie.moran@4a.com.au), +61 402926031

**\*\*ENDS\*\***

## ABOUT THE ARTIST:

**Louise Zhang** (b. 1991. Lives and works in Sydney, Australia/Beijing, China) is a Chinese-Australian Sydney-based multidisciplinary artist, whose practice spans painting, sculpture and installation. Underlying all of her work is an ongoing fascination with the medium of paint, and the ways in which it can be manipulated to create works which investigate and challenge the thin divide which separates the 'monstrous' from the 'cute'.

Preoccupied with the notion of 'the blob', Zhang has created a world in which "the blob can also be seen as both an entity and a source of creation, a compound that is ready to be intervened with and modeled. This amorphousness is perfectly expressed through the viscosity of paint: its materiality is comparable to the characteristics of the blob... primordial, manipulable, transmutable, fluid and tactile." This fascination with unknown potential and the promise of impending transformation is consistent throughout Zhang's practice.

## 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.

*Rickshaw Tales* has been made possible with major support from the City of Sydney and is part of the 2017 Sydney Chinese New Year Festival. Rickshaw Tales riders and rickshaw are provided with support from Sydney Eco Cabs.

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The Rickshaw Tales program has been made possible with the support of the City of Sydney and is part of the City's 2017 Chinese New Year Festival:



**Chinese New Year  
Festival 2017**

中國農曆新年慶典活動  
**Celebrating the  
Lunar New Year**  
CITY OF SYDNEY

Our childrens' program is supported by the Chinese Garden of Friendship:

**CHINESE  
GARDEN** 友



**DARLING  
HARBOUR**

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