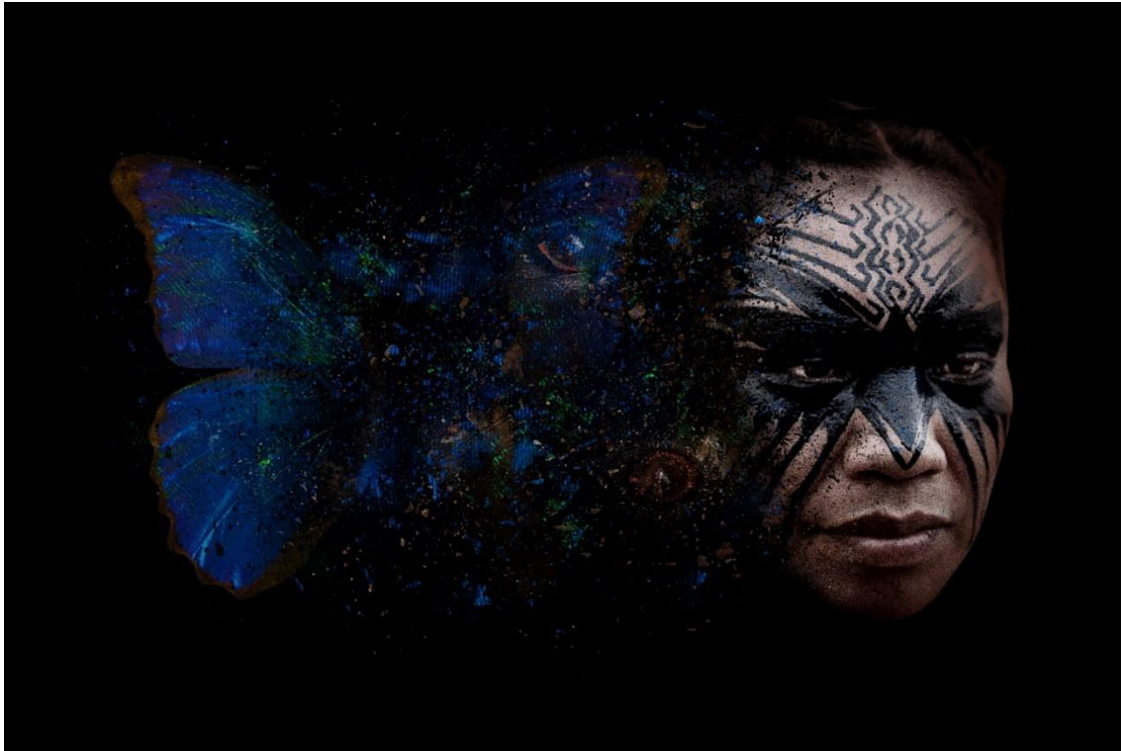


MEDIA RELEASE: 31 October, 2019

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN A WORLD OF SPECTACLE

Visual Arts Program (various venues through to May)



Lynette Wallworth, Awavena

The bold 2020 **Visual Arts** program, in the hands of celebrated local curator **Gemma Weston**, examines place and identity with a powerful urgency that balances the spectacular with the intricate and tender.

This summer, Perth Festival's Visual Arts program offers a richly textured experience, with a series of exhibitions united by the process of accumulation and transformation at the **Art Gallery of Western Australia**, **Perth Institute of Contemporary Art (PICA)**, the **Lawrence Wilson Gallery**, **Fremantle Arts Centre**, the **John Curtin Gallery** and the **DADAA Gallery**.

The core of the program focusses on Australian art and experience, expanding the definition of the local to consider its international significance and reach.

Exhibitions include stunning new VR works from trailblazing filmmaker **Lynette Wallworth** at the **Art Gallery of WA** and the immersive multimedia experience **Chalkroom**, from legendary New York artist **Laurie Anderson** as well as Taiwanese artist **Hsin-Chien Huang**, at PICA. **Tina Havelock**

Stevens' audio-video work *Thunderhead* channels a storm cell's extreme energy also are showing at PICA, where **Jacky Connolly's** game-art video work tracks the lives of two Sims 3 characters in the suburban wasteland of *Hudson Valley Ruins*.

Home grown talent **Ian Strange** reveals the anxieties of suburban life through his transformations of desolate and empty homes in a series of eerie photo-media and film works for *Suburban Interventions 2008-2020* at John Curtin Gallery. Continuing with the suburban theme, in the adjoining gallery, acclaimed Noongar artist **Sandra Hill's** *Mirra Kurrum Maun (Far From Home)* expresses the impact of government policies and racial discrimination on generations of Aboriginal women through paintings of suburban life.

And continuing the Festival's commitment to arts and disability, DAADA in Fremantle will present original works from the *Cheeky Dogs* series by Northern Territory artist and illustrator **Dion Beasley**, an artist in the 22nd Sydney Biennale in 2020.

For *The Long Kiss Goodbye* at Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, a group of artists transform familiar materials and symbols into complex meditations on attraction, repulsion, loss and hope. And art meets science in *Bricolage*, an ambitious new installation of microscopic robots from at Fremantle Arts Centre, which also celebrates the kaleidoscopic vision of Walmajarri artist **John Prince Siddon** alongside 1990s works by **Butcher Cheral Janangoo** in the joint Mangkaja Arts show *All Mixed Up*.

"It's an incredible privilege to join the Festival team, and collaborate with Western Australia's best art galleries to deliver the 2020 Visual Arts program," says **Program Curator Gemma Weston**. Together, we've produced an exciting mix of new technologies, urgent issues, deep feelings and age-old stories, where cutting edge VR experiences and hand dyed textiles find a space to talk. For me, being immersed in art gives me the time and space to reflect on my place in the world and to be transported to somewhere new, and I can't wait for us to go on this journey together."

Manager of Wesfarmers Arts, Helen Carroll says "We congratulate Perth Festival on its heartfelt and artistically ambitious commitment to the visual arts. It's a great barometer of the maturity and vision of this festival that it embraces the work of many of the leading and indeed great artists of our time both internationally and of Australia. And we're enormously proud at Wesfarmers Arts to be investing with the Festival in a very exciting and conceptually compelling program of visual art that brings truly important and inspiring works of contemporary art to the people of Western Australia."

For an exclusive behind the scenes adventure, join us for the **Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galleries**, a full day of city-wide events, providing guests with a unique insight into the 2020 Visual Arts Program.

"Enjoy the variety and vigour this festival's Visual Arts Program has in store for art lovers of all levels," says Gemma.

[Images are available here.](#)

VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM

HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALLERIES

WHEN: SUN 9 FEB 10AM – 5PM

CHALKROOM, LAURIE ANDERSON AND HSIN-CHUEN HUANG

WHERE: PERTH INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

WHEN: SAT 8 FEB – SUN 19 APRIL

THUNDERHEAD, TINA HAVELOCK STEVENS

WHERE: PERTH INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

WHEN: SAT 8 FEB – Sun 19 Apr

HUDSON VALLEY RUINS, JACK CONNOLLY

WHERE: PERTH INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

WHEN: SAT 8 FEB – SUN 19 APR

AWAVENA, LYNETTE WALLWORTH

WHERE: ART GALLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WHEN: FRI 7 FEB – MON 2 MAR

IAN STRANGE, SUBURBAN INTERVENTIONS 2008 – 2020

WHERE: JOHN CURTIN GALLERY

WHEN: FRI 7 FEB – FRI 24 APR

MIA KURRUM MAUN (FAR FROM HOME), SANDRA HILL

WHERE: JOHN CURTIN GALLERY

WHEN: FRI 7 FEB – FRI 24 APR

BRICOLAGE, NATHAN THOMPSON, GUY BEN-ARY & SEBASTIAN DIECKE WITH JOSEPHINE WILSON

WHERE: FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE

WHEN: THU 6 FEB – SUN 22 MAR

JOHN PRINCE SIDDON: ALL MIXED UP, WITH JANANGO

WHERE: FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE

WHEN: THU 6 FEB – SUN 22 MAR

CHEEKY DOGS, DION BEASLEY

WHERE: DADAA Gallery

WHEN: FRI 7 FEB – SAT 18 APR

THE LONG KISS GOODBYE, SARAH CONTOS, PENNY COSS, IAIN DEAN, BRENT HARRIS, CLARE PEAKE
& MICHELLE ELLIOTT

WHERE: LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY

WHEN: FRI 7 FEB – SAT 9 MAY

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Perth Festival acknowledges the Noongar people who continue to practise their values, language, beliefs and knowledge on their kwobidak boodjar.

They remain the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara of this place and we honour and respect their caretakers and custodians and the vital role Noongar people play for our community and our Festival to flourish.

Perth Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 66 years, the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Iain Grandage is the Artistic Director 2020 – 23.

Visual Arts Program Partner

