

biennale of sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE 18TH BIENNALE OF SYDNEY TO PRESENT THREE MAJOR WORKS IN ASSOCIATION WITH CARRIAGEWORKS IN 2012

The 18th Biennale of Sydney: **all our relations**, in association with Redfern-based contemporary arts institution Carriageworks, will present two international dance performances and a major art installation in 2012.

Marah Braye, Chief Executive Officer, Biennale of Sydney, said: 'We are delighted our 2012 Artistic Directors, Catherine de Zegher and Gerald McMaster, have chosen to include these exciting works in the 18th Biennale of Sydney and are pleased to be working with Carriageworks to help realise them.'

Carriageworks Director **Lisa Havilah** announced the projects last night as part of the launch of the 2012 artistic program that explores contemporary art and ideas through theatre, music, performance and visual arts.

Lisa Havilah said: 'Carriageworks' 2012 program marks a significant new chapter. For the first time, we will be producing more than two thirds of the annual artistic program both through collaboration with other arts institutions – including the renowned Biennale of Sydney – and of our own accord'.

The 18th Biennale of Sydney: **all our relations** and Carriageworks will present the Australian premieres of *En Atendant* and *Cesena*, two exciting performances by choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker's dance ensemble **Rosas**.

En Atendant takes a new step in the exploration of combined music and dance, drawing inspiration from *ars subtilior*. This complex and intellectual form of polyphonic music developed out of the ruins of the plague in the fourteenth century, a time when the pillars of mediaeval society were fragmenting. De Keersmaeker explores questions of our mortality and physicality, that are now becoming ever more crucial, taking us to a place where twilight merges almost imperceptibly into night.

Cesena heralds the start to a new day and is choreographed by Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker in collaboration with musical director Björn Schmelzer and his ensemble *graindelavoix*. This new production might be called the counterpart to *Rosas'* *En Atendant*. Performers share the stage, exploring the limits of their ability – where dancers sing and singers dance in dialogue with the scores of the *ars subtilior*. *Rosas* has collaborated with Ann Veronica Janssens for the set design, creating a sculpture of passing time, reflecting the constant transformation of what is around us but only becomes visible in the course of time.

The third work to be presented at Carriageworks as part of the 18th Biennale of Sydney: **all our relations** is a major installation from respected Belgian artist **Ann Veronica Janssens**. Janssens creates 'propositions' or 'interventions' in her installations that are based on the relation of time and space.

Through the use of light, artificial fog, projections and sound, Janssens' work touches on experiencing the ungraspable. Her immersive environments and urban interventions invite viewers to cross the threshold into a new sensory space – on the border of dizziness and dazzlement.

Janssens' work will be presented at Carriageworks from 27 June until 16 September 2012. *En Atendant* will be presented on 11 and 12 September and *Cesena* will be presented on 14 and 15 September 2012.

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biennale of sydney

international festival of contemporary art

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at www.carriageworks.com.au

ABOUT THE BIENNALE OF SYDNEY

The Biennale of Sydney continues to play a central role in developing visual arts culture in Australia and connecting artists from around the world.

Every two years, the Biennale of Sydney is presented free to the public over a twelve-week period. As Australia's largest and most exciting contemporary visual arts event, the Biennale attracted more than 517,000 visits in 2010.

The 18th Biennale of Sydney (2012) will celebrate the organisation's 39th anniversary. Alongside the Venice and São Paulo biennales and dOCUMENTA, it is one of the longest running exhibitions of its kind and was the first biennale to be established in the Asia-Pacific region. Since its inception in 1973, the Biennale of Sydney has provided an international platform for innovative and challenging contemporary art, showcasing the work of more than 1500 artists from over 83 countries.

The 18th Biennale of Sydney: **all our relations** (27 June – 16 September 2012) is based on a collaborative framework and dynamic new exhibition model. It will be presented across Sydney's leading visual arts venues, including the newly redeveloped Museum of Contemporary Art, the Art Gallery of New South Wales and Cockatoo Island, a world heritage-listed former shipyard and prison. Artistic Directors **Catherine de Zegher** and **Gerald McMaster** will bring together international artists to collaborate and create artworks, exploring new ideas from unexpected voices around the world.

The Biennale of Sydney gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the many organisations and individuals that make the exhibition and its programs possible.

For further information, please visit www.biennaleofsydney.com.au

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