

2016 ADELAIDE BIENNIAL OF AUSTRALIAN ART

MEDIA RELEASE

Rooms of wonder unlocked in the 2016 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Magic Object

Titled *Magic Object*, the 2016 Adelaide Biennial of Australia Art takes inspiration from the *Wunderkammer*, delving into a world of wonder and enchantment through the eyes of Australian contemporary artists.

Magic Object will offer a space where free associations and insights are made possible by artists and audiences, where artists' interests in the talismanic, in cultural rituals and material riddles enchant the viewer. This enchantment however, is not without caution – the *Wunderkammer* offers itself up as tool with which to not only view the world, but to critique it.

Inviting us into their own 'cabinets of curiosity' through photography, painting, performance, sculpture, installation and the moving image, will be artists **Abdul-Rahman Abdullah** (WA), **Glenn Barkley** (NSW), **Chris Bond** (VIC), **Pepai Carroll** (SA), **Tarryn Gill** (WA), **Louise Haselton** (SA), **Juz Kitson** (NSW), **Loongkoonan** (WA), **Fiona McMonagle** (VIC), **Danie Mellor** (NSW), **Clare Milledge** (NSW), **Tom Moore** (SA), **Nell** (NSW), **Ramesh Mario-Nithiyendran** (NSW), **Bluey Roberts** (SA), **Gareth Sansom** (VIC), **Robyn Stacey** (NSW), **Garry Stewart & Australian Dance Theatre** (SA), **Jacqui Stockdale** (VIC), **Heather B Swann** (ACT), **Hiroshi Tango** (NSW), **Roy Wiggan** (WA), **Tiger Yaltangki** (SA) and **Michael Zavros** (QLD).

Presented by the Art Gallery of South Australia and curated by Lisa Slade, Assistant Director, Artistic Programs at the Art Gallery, *Magic Object* runs from 27 February to 15 May 2016 as part of the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

The 2016 iteration is the most ambitious Biennial to date, unfolding across an unprecedented number of venues in Adelaide, including the Art Gallery, Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art at UniSA, JamFactory, Carrick Hill and the Santos Museum of Economic Botany in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

"Spread across these sites, I've invited artists to consider magic and object-hood and to explore how materials speak to both artists and audiences." said Curator Lisa Slade. "Much of the work presented in *Magic Object* looks like one thing, but is really another. It possesses a materiality akin to trickery or magic."

Without intention, *Magic Object* is also a complement or counter-point to Art Gallery Director Nick Mitzevich's 2014 Biennial, *Dark Heart*.

The Vernissage weekend of the 2016 Adelaide Festival features free artist talks and lively panel discussions offering a *Wunderkammer* of perspectives on material and magical thinking, as artists and thinkers examine the juxtapositions that make the world itself a magic object.

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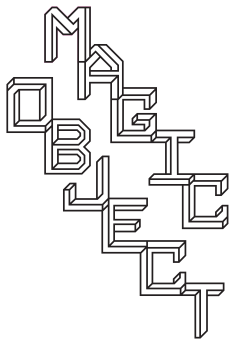
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