



Sydney, Australia: 30 September 2016

MEDIA RELEASE: LIVEWORKS FULL 2016 PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Runs 27 October to 6 November: A Two Week Showcase of Leading Experimental Artists from Across Australia and the Asia Pacific



Images left to right: *Liveworks* 2016 artists River Lin, Pony Express and Kristina Chan. Image courtesy and copyright the artist.

Sydney, Australia: Performance Space is pleased to announce it has added two powerful new artworks by beguiling contemporary artists to the *Liveworks* 2016 festival. Perth artist collective Pony Express and Melbourne artists Nicola Gunn and Jo Lloyd will bring provocative artworks to Sydney for the first time. The announcement was made today as Performance Space unveiled the full festival program, just one month before the city's biggest showcase of experimental art begins. The 2016 *Liveworks* guide has hit the streets and the digital version is now live with a complete schedule of artist talks, workshops, performances and exhibitions. The program can be downloaded in full at [Liveworks 2016](#).

Running from **27 October to 6 November 2016**, *Liveworks* will once again bring the newest and most intriguing developments in experimental art to Sydney from across Australia and the Asia Pacific. Performance Space is pleased to add that this year will be the most ambitious *Liveworks* ever presented as this risk-taking young festival grows into its own and marks its place as a must-see annual event. Artists will transform Carriageworks with an extensive schedule of large-scale exhibitions, participatory installations, live music, dance and theatre over two explosive weeks. The program unveil is a reminder that *Liveworks* is quickly building a reputation for attracting a cutting-edge lineup of the most exciting artists breaking new ground from across Australia and around the globe to create a world-class showcase of artistic innovation.

Performance Space is thrilled to today add Perth based artist collective [Pony Express](#) the festival lineup and present their participatory and large-scale artwork [Ecosexual Bathhouse](#). The talk of this year's *Next Wave Festival*, the artwork asks visitors to get intimate with nature to shift climate change conversations. Pony Express invites audiences into a cave of natural wonders with a variety of eco-play experiences. Viewers enter the artwork in groups of eight. They are inducted into the rules and ethos of the bathhouse and given costumes to wear. Each section of the space presents a different experience of nature: the pollination lab allows the audience to help orchids in spreading their seed; the sauna invites visitors to relax and listen to recorded eco-stories; the nature table to dig through worm farms and dip fingers into ponds; and a rainforest rooms hosts a 'storm'. *Vice Magazine* summed up the artwork as: 'A hedonistic Eden for a post-sustainable age.' However the playfulness of the piece belies a serious message. The artists hope to create a radical re-visioning for how we engage with the environment and understand conservationism. The artwork draws on the Eco-sex manifesto by Annie Sprinkle and Dr Elizabeth Stephens, where the political becomes very personal. The six spaces ask visitors to reconsider the relationship between humans and nature: because if we can learn to love the Earth, then maybe we can save it.

MILESTONE CREATIVE
AUSTRALIA

Performance Space and Chunky Move are pleased to announce they will co-present the captivating performance work [Mermermer](#) by award-winning artist [Nicola Gunn](#) and Jo Lloyd. Nominated for more than 10 Green Room awards and a UK Stage Award, Nicola Gunn has been attracting critical acclaim for the past decade. A Melbourne-based performer, writer, director and dramaturg, Gunn makes works that blend performance, art and anthropology to explore the fragility of the human condition with subversive humour. The artist once again teams up with choreographer Jo Lloyd to present this compelling new performance work which oscillates between high art and entertainment. Both a physical and verbal conversation, the performance work asks 'If you were one of the last two humans on earth, what would you talk about?' Blending unpredictable humour and trance-like movement, the artwork explore ideas of extinction and myth-making for dramatic effect. *The Australian* said: 'Witty, joyous and disconcerting, *Mermermer* blends the irreverent, absurd and everyday into a quirky style of comedic physical theatre.'

Today's online program announcement is a reminder to Sydney-siders that there is just one month to go until the festival and tickets are selling fast for many of major performances already announced. Other highlights of the 2016 program and major artworks to be presented in Sydney for the first time, include:

Award-winning Aboriginal music duo [Stiff Gins](#) will make their contemporary performance debut with [Spirit of Things](#). This powerful and provocative new work uses music-based performance as a vehicle for storytelling about museums that hold significant collections of Indigenous objects. The artists address their deeply held concerns about Indigenous artefacts that have been collected and controversially presented in museums across the globe. Nardi Simpson and Kaleena Briggs have become increasingly concerned by the distance between these Indigenous cultural objects and their ancestral country. To the artists, these objects are more than mere shadows of the past: they are living entities. The singers breathe new life into these pieces, liberating them and re-connecting them with their communities and creators. The work asks audiences to reconsider the importance of these objects, and question why they have been taken away in the first place and imprisoned behind glass. Created in collaboration with renowned British director Felix Cross, this powerful new work will shine a new light on two of Sydney's finest artists.

In [Thunderhead](#) Sydney-based artist [Tina Havelock Stevens](#) asks us to meditate on the state of our planet. Her large scale and imposing video installation brings to life a violent storm which the artist watched and filmed on Highway 54 while on a road trip through Texas earlier this year. The meteorological phenomenon is given new meaning on the big screen. This imposing video installation creates an extended moment, inviting audiences to reflect on the power and precariousness of nature. As the installation loops and whirls, it takes viewers on a transcendent journey propelled by its oscillating and pounding soundtrack. The drama is enhanced by a haunting, improvised musical live performance by Tina Havelock Stevens (drums) and collaborating musician Liberty Kerr (guitar). Audiences are asked to settle in and reflect on decay, survival and fragility of the environment and the changing space between humans and nature.

Climate change is a central theme that also ripples through [A Faint Existence](#), a world premiere solo dance work by acclaimed dancer and emerging choreographer [Kristina Chan](#). Co-presented by Performance Space and Force Majeure, the artwork is the first full-length solo choreographic debut by this leading Sydney artist. The work questions our complex connection to the environment; our desire to make a change; and the feelings of helplessness that derail our best intentions. Chan's work is a powerful and physical meditation on the impermanence, fragility and mortality in the context of climate change. Kristina Chan is one of Australia's foremost dance artists: a dancer of great precision, intuition and physical virtuosity. Acclaimed composer James Brown has created a live electronic score that connects to the intricacies of Chan's choreography in a shifting environment created by Clare Britton. Choreographer, Kate Champion, says of the work: "A *Faint Existence* captures one of Australia's most beguiling contemporary dancers at the peak of her abilities as a performer and the point of recognition of her formidable creative capacities."

Singaporean artist [Choy Ka Fai](#) is one of the highest profile artists working in Asia today. His epic performance series *SoftMachine* is an internationally-celebrated series of live performances and video portraits which explore contemporary dance across the breadth and diversity of Asia. To create the series, the artist interviewed over eighty choreographers to uncover the complex histories and tensions within Asian dance cultures. The performances fuse live choreography with documentary film and theatrical elements to create intimate and revealing portraits of four extraordinary Asian artists. Performance Space is thrilled to present two of these performances.

For *Liveworks*, Choy Ka Fai works with mesmerizing Indonesian dancer [Rianto](#) to explore the transition between man and woman. The dancer performs the traditional erotic dance Lengger in this solo performance alongside newer, contemporary styles. The work dramatic blends old and new; male and female to explore the complexity of making art against the backdrop of a globalised China. In another work, Choy Ka Fai collaborates with Chinese artists [XiaoKe + ZiHan](#), well known internationally for creating work which explores the extremes of bodily movement to reflect on the social and political context of China. The artwork explores the harsh realities and censorship restrictions for artists making work in China today and their personal experience of constant cultural surveillance to question the boundaries of artistic freedom.

Experimental music pioneer [Jon Rose](#) looks back at his career to open up his vast personal collection for the first time in a milestone installation [The Museum Goes Live](#). The exhibition showcases Rose's astonishing collection of hand-built instruments and violin-related iconography. This is a rare chance to see into the mind of this extraordinary musician and celebrate his important contribution to Australian music and his work with remote communities. Tracing the interplay between music and humanity through the triumphs and disasters of the last century, the exhibition will be brought to life each night of *Liveworks* as Rose and a host of Australia's finest experimental musicians activate the museum's eccentric collection of instruments.

Everybody will be talking about sex when [Mish Grigor](#) presents [The Talk](#) in Sydney for the first time. The artist invites 100 people to share glasses of warm champagne while she recounts frank and often explicit but very real conversations she has had with her family about sex and sexuality. If that's not uncomfortable enough, Grigor then asks audience members to stand in as her parents or siblings and act out the 'sex-talk' scenes together for hilarious, moving and thought-provoking results. This critically acclaimed participatory theatre work explores the taboos of sex, relationships and family dynamics as the most uncomfortable topic of all is laid bare. This work is explicit and unapologetic, yet also tender and very personal for the artists in its investigation into uncharted territory. After attracting critical acclaim across Australia and at Edinburgh Forest Fringe festival, this leading Sydney artist returns home to unveil this critically acclaimed Sydney.

Brisbane artist [Liesel Zink](#) questions the personal price of protest in [The Stance](#). A monumental live performance that sees nine people create a large-scale intervention in the Carriageworks public spaces. *The Stance* is an imposing act of endurance that channels the history of public protest and recent acts of global action, activism and intervention. As the ensemble perform to a live score, a sprawling dance work transforms into an intimate viewing experience and listen to a soundtrack transmitted through wireless headsets. Viewers are asked to consider what it means to really put yourself on the line for something you believe in.

One of Taiwan's highest profile artists, performance maker [River Lin](#) latest work [Cleansing Service](#) is a series of one-on-one encounters in which the artist asks each visitor to point out a part of their body that seems unclean, physically or emotionally, and offers to help 'cleanse' it for them. This internationally acclaimed artist will also present a very special artwork at the festival's opening night. *River Walk* is a meditative durational performance that sees the artist as he interrogates everyday movement, expands the process of putting one foot in front of another and captures the remains of these performed gestures.

On the domestic front, [We the People](#) is an artist-in-residence program that pairs four leading artists with four diverse community organisations around Redfern. Embedded in the culture of each organisation, the artists will present unique works that invite audiences in to these community spaces. This work examines the social fabric that creates a neighbourhood and scratches the surface of a place in flux. Visitors are invited to collect a map from Carriageworks over the first weekend and walk the streets to discover the ideas and ideals that make up one of Sydney's most dynamic and historically important neighbourhoods. Artists involved include: **Deborah Kelly** will create a work with the members of the Association for Good Government NSW and 'exercise her rights'; **Anna McMahon** will speak with Aunty Beryl Van Oploo from the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence to create a food and floral installation; **Benjamin Forster** will celebrate this universal language of utopia with the Esperanto Federation of NSW; and **David Capra** and **Emma Saunders** will create a temporary community and creative exchange at The Work Shop.

Finally, another major highlight of the 2016 program will be the large scale and kinetic installation by leading Brisbane artist [Ross Manning](#). Taking visual art into a transcendental realm, Manning transforms Carriageworks' public space into a constantly-moving, psychedelic landscape of light and colour with his large-scale installation [Melody Lines](#). Co-commissioned by Performance Space and Carriageworks, this complex artwork will fill the *Carriageworks* space with lo-fi mechanics and industrial materials to create a giant scale to awe-inspiring effect, altering our perception of the everyday spaces we inhabit.

The **2016 Liveworks Festival** will also feature a range of exclusive artist-in-conversation events and artist workshops to hear directly from **Liveworks** artists to further explore the themes and concepts behind their works.

INTERVIEWS:

Available now for interview: **Liveworks 2016 artists and Jeff Khan, Artistic Director**

KEY DATES

LIVEWORKS FESTIVAL OF EXPERIMENTAL ART

27 October – 6 November

Performance Space

Carriageworks

245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh NSW

Website and the full 2016 program: www.performancespace.com.au/events/liveworks-2016/

Imagery: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0yuzah0gvt6jdeu/AADKiK9R3hWfhgBnQAF020Lda?dl=0>

Video: <https://vimeo.com/180143723>

MEDIA PREVIEWS

Week Commencing 24 October

Media Previews at Carriageworks.

Pre-register interest to receive details on for media preview events [here](#):

(<https://confirmsubscription.com/h/i/6E82947406BB2BAE>)

THEMES:

Liveworks 2016 covers the following themes: Eco/Interest in Environment; Indigenous art and culture; Music – Experimental; Dance – Experimental; Political Affairs; Gender and Sexuality; Asia-Pacific – artists

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