

biennale of sydney

international festival of contemporary art

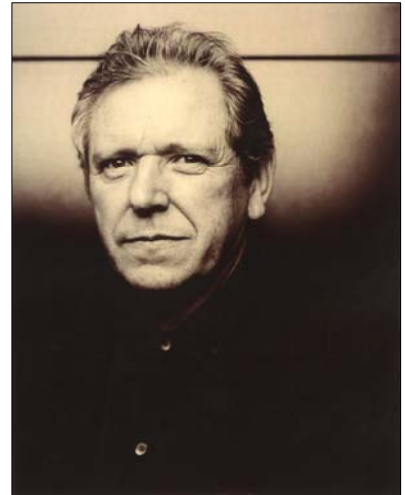
MEDIA RELEASE
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BIENNALE OF SYDNEY ANNOUNCES DAVID ELLIOTT AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FOR 2010

The Biennale of Sydney has today announced the appointment of eminent curator David Elliott as the Artistic Director of the 2010 Biennale of Sydney.

"We are extremely pleased that David Elliott has accepted our invitation to become the Artistic Director of the 17th Biennale of Sydney," Marah Braye says. "He is a dynamic curator with a very unique approach to contemporary art. Whilst being a truly international figure, he is also very familiar with Australia and Australian artists and we look forward to working with him on an exciting, multi-faceted event for the 2010 Biennale of Sydney."

UK-born, David Elliott is a renowned and innovative curator. He has held several influential directorships with major international art museums, including the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford (UK); Moderna Museet [The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art] in Stockholm; and was founding Director of Mori Art Museum in Tokyo; and Istanbul Museum of Modern Art [Istanbul Modern]. He was also, for six years, President of CIMAM (International Committee of ICOM for Museums of Modern and Contemporary Art).



Currently based in London, Berlin and Istanbul, David Elliott is considered one of the most charismatic and insightful curators of today, respected for his curatorial interest in connections between the visual arts and other arts genres, and for ground-breaking exhibitions such as: 'Wounds: between democracy and redemption in contemporary art' (1998); 'Happiness: a survival guide for art and life' (2003); 'Follow me! Chinese art at the turn of the millennium' (2005); 'Hatsu-yume [First Dream]: the video art of Bill Viola' (2006); and 'From Ottoman Empire to Turkish Republic: modernity at a time of change' (2007).

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Chairman Luca Belgiorno-Nettis says: "The 2008 Biennale of Sydney has been an extraordinarily ambitious project and in order to build on our significant achievements in 2010, we have appointed a curator who has enormous energy and insight. His work in the 'new' art centres of Berlin and the Middle East, as well as in Eastern Asia, means that he is very well placed to build on this year's event and to expand its global perspective. We are very happy to welcome David Elliott as the next Artistic Director and are proud that the Biennale of Sydney continues to attract curators of this calibre."

David Elliott says: "I have worked on a large number of thematic shows in different parts of the world and I am very happy indeed to be asked to be the Artistic Director of the next Biennale of Sydney. The central subject will be contemporary art and why it is one of the most important activities in which we can be engaged. This is, because if it is any good, it balances enjoyment with wisdom by offering creative, free and open perspectives that are desperately needed in complicated times. I will, of course, take into account the state of art across the whole world today and how this may relate to that made in Australia and the regions around it."

2008 Biennale of Sydney

The 2008 Biennale of Sydney: **Revolutions – Forms That Turn** is currently underway, under the artistic direction of Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev and continues until Sunday, 7 September. It is held across seven sites, including Cockatoo Island, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Pier 2/3, Artspace, Sydney Opera House, the Royal Botanic Gardens, plus a dedicated online venue.

With more than 180 artists from the past century and today, and including 50 new artist projects, this year's event has already attracted record visitation and is considered one of the most successful Biennales held in Australia to date. More information can be found online at www.bos2008.com.au

Note to the media

David Elliott, Marah Braye (CEO) and Luca Belgiorno-Nettis (Chairman) are available for phone interviews on request.

David Elliott will also deliver the Melbourne Art Fair Lecture this evening at 6 pm on the topic: 'In Praise of Impurity: Beyond Geo-Aesthetics in Contemporary Art'.

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Further notes for Editors

- Internationally respected curator David Elliott has been appointed Artistic Director of the 17th Biennale of Sydney, to be held in 2010.
- Elliott is a freelance curator and writer concerned primarily with modern and contemporary art based in London, Berlin and Istanbul.

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- He is presently Rudolph Arnheim Guest Professor in Art History at the Humboldt University, Berlin and in Museum Studies at the Chinese University in Hong Kong.
- From 1976–1996, he was Director of the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford, England, Director of Moderna Museet [The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art] in Stockholm, Sweden (1996–2001), founding Director of the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo (2001–2006) and, during 2007, the first Director of the Istanbul Museum of Modern Art [Istanbul Modern].
- Elliott is a cultural historian whose main interests concern contemporary art, Russian avant-garde and the visual cultures of central and Eastern Europe, Asia and the non-Western world during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries until the present. From the beginning of the 1980s, he formulated a series of pioneering exhibitions in one of the first programs anywhere to integrate non-western with western contemporary art.
- Recent major exhibitions he has curated include: 'Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1933–1945' (1995); 'Wounds: between democracy and redemption in contemporary art' (1998); 'After the Wall: art and culture in post-Communist Europe' (1999); 'Organising Freedom: Nordic art in the '90s' (2001); 'Happiness: a survival guide for art and life' (2003); 'Africa Remix: the contemporary art of a continent' (2004); 'Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, Where is Our Place?' (2004); 'Follow Me! Chinese art at the turn of the millennium' (2005); 'Tokyo Berlin/Berlin Tokyo' (2006); 'Hiroshi Sugimoto' (2006); 'Hatsu-yume [First Dream]: the video art of Bill Viola' (2006); 'Time Past, Time Present: 20 years of the Istanbul Biennial' (2007); 'From Ottoman Empire to Turkish Republic: modernity at a time of change' (2007).
- He is currently working on the following exhibition projects: 'Bye Bye Kitty!! Between Heaven and Hell in Contemporary Japanese Art' (Japan Society, New York and tour); 'Ottoman Redux: the Contemporary Art of an Imaginary Empire' (Dresden State Art Museums and tour). For the Council of Europe, he is involved in developing a post-War follow-up exhibition to 'Art and Power' called 'Guerillas and Partisans: Art and Power 1940–2010'.

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