

melbourne art foundation presents melbourne art fair 2010

MELBOURNE ART FAIR

4 – 8 AUGUST 2010

Royal Exhibition Building, Carlton Gardens, Melbourne

www.melbourneartfoundation.com

ANNOUNCING LEADING AUSTRALIAN ARTIST JON CAMPBELL THE RECIPIENT OF MELBOURNE ART FOUNDATION'S ARTIST COMMISSION FOR MELBOURNE ART FAIR 2010

Melbourne Art Foundation is thrilled to announce artist **Jon Campbell** as the recipient of the **Melbourne Art Foundation Artist Commission** for the upcoming **Melbourne Art Fair**, 4 - 8 August 2010, at the Royal Exhibition Building.

As one of this country's most exciting contemporary artists, **Jon Campbell** has created *Stacks On* a massive assemblage of light boxes and banners, adorned with sewn and painted elements leading us from the northern entrance to the majestic dome of the Royal Exhibition Building. The artwork will be premiered at the forthcoming Melbourne Art Fair 2010.

Taking materials from the everyday and assembling them to match his personal sensibilities, **Campbell** has been called an Australian 'pop painter'.

Paintings, cut-outs, banners, neons and placards demonstrate his love of suburbia and its vernacular, popular music and its attendant culture, printing, design and advertising, sport and youth culture. His works define not only the look of the world in which Campbell lives, but the accent and humour of its language and how signs can articulate its culture and history. These signs contain text that are sometimes loud and boisterous but never offensively so. They have a beauty about them that encourages belief.

"Like all good poetry, Jon Campbell distils complex ideas into visual sign posts making us see things anew", says Melbourne Art Foundation Director, Bronwyn Johnson.

The objective of the **Melbourne Art Foundation Artist Commission** is to provide a significant opportunity to a living artist to realise a large-scale artwork for the **Melbourne Art Fair**. This Commission is later gifted to an Australian public gallery or museum, as announced at the beginning of the Fair.

Jon Campbell is the fourth recipient of the **Melbourne Art Foundation Artist Commission** – the previous three having gone to New Zealand artist Michael Parekwhai in 2006, and joint recipients David Griggs and Peter Hennessey in 2008.

Parekwhai's inflatable rabbit *Cosmo* sculpture was gifted to the National Gallery of Victoria, while Griggs' full-scale circus tent *Frog Boy's Dissertation into a new karaoke cult* went to Queensland Art Gallery, Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA). Hennessey's huge, black plywood *My Humvee (inversion therapy)*, is prominently located in the University of Queensland Art Museum's foyer.

"Hennessey's sculpture is a most significant addition to the University's Collection and has provided the incentive for the UQ Art Museum to develop a Peter Hennessey survey exhibition for 2012. The Melbourne Art Foundation's Commission provides a rare and important opportunity for artists and for the development of Australian contemporary art." Nick Mitzevich, Director UQ Art Museum, Brisbane.

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Melbourne Art Fair is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding advisory body.

Melbourne Art Fair is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, state and territory governments.

Melbourne Art Foundation's International Program is supported by the Australia Council, the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body, through its Arts Development Division.

For all media enquiries please contact
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Jon Campbell graduated from RMIT in 1982 with a Bachelor of Fine Art (Painting), and from the VCA in 1985 with a Graduate Diploma (Painting). Since 1987, he has taught at universities, TAFE, community centres and private art schools, and lectured in the VCA Painting Department since 1999.

Campbell has exhibited widely in both group and solo shows at commercial galleries, public galleries, art schools, artist run spaces and cafés. He has been awarded several prizes and grants, including Greene St Studio, NYC (Australia Council), Development Grant (Australia Council), New Work grant (Arts Victoria), the Herald Sun Art Prize, and the Keith and Elisabeth Murdoch Travelling Fellowship.

"I grew up in Altona in Melbourne's western suburbs and this has had a big effect on my work," explains **Campbell**. "I think a kind of 'westie', working class feel still influences my work. It's had an effect on what I think is important and what needs to be the subject of my work. It has actually made me have a more tolerant, open view of the world."

Since the mid '80s, Jon has played in bands such as The King Jerklews, The Monaros, The Colonial V-Knees and Adawo. Music continues to play a huge role in his life. He currently writes songs and performs with his band, **Gloss Enamel**.

Melbourne Art Fair is a biennial event, presented by over 80 selected national and international galleries, Melbourne Art Fair 2010 features paintings, sculpture, photography, installations and multimedia artworks from over 900 artists and attracts up to 30,000 visitors.

Jon Campbell's major commission can be seen at the Royal Exhibition Building at the Melbourne Art Fair 2010 from Wednesday 4 August at the Vernissage Opening Night Cocktail party, through to Sunday 8 August.

www.melbournartfoundation.com

Tickets: Melbourne Art Fair Day Entry 5 – 8 August
Tickets at door, Adult \$25, Concession \$19
Children 14 years and under free,
Catalogues at door \$25 inc gst

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