



QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET  
MON 17 – 23 OCTOBER

Various times, FREE

For more information on the program visit

[www.festival.melbourne](http://www.festival.melbourne)

[www.bienniallab.com](http://www.bienniallab.com)

CLOSING EVENT

SUN 23 OCTOBER

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#melbfest

Australia // Visual Arts

World Premiere

## PUBLIC ART MELBOURNE BIENNIAL LAB

### *What Happens Now?*

Chief Curator Natalie King

The Queen Victoria Market, an iconic meeting place for the city, is explored anew through the lens of leading Australian artists as part of the inaugural Public Art Melbourne Biennial Lab: *What Happens Now?* curated by Natalie King.

In June this year, 14 artists were brought together for an intense two-week period developing concepts in a laboratory environment under the mentorship of international public art experts Claire Doherty (Director, Situations) and Professor David Cross (artist, curator, Head of Art and Performance, Deakin University). The results will be revealed at this year's Melbourne Festival with temporary commissions that respond to the many layers of meaning embedded in the market.

The title of the inaugural Biennial Lab, *What Happens Now?*, is derived from an anonymous paste-up program throughout New York City in 1979 by American artist Jenny Holzer. Like a manifesto, Holzer's slogans are part of her acerbic 'Inflammatory Essays.' While anchoring the curatorial framework, *What Happens Now?* offers an open ended inquiry and the prospect of imagining new possibilities. From elaborate and evocative installations to ethereal moments of human connection and release, this suite of temporary new works will reinterpret the Market; probing its Indigenous, mercantile, migratory and colonial past; sharing its secrets and celebrating its stories.

*"The Biennial Lab allows early mid-career artists to work onsite in an incubator lab setting in order to create works that excite, incite, cajole and intrigue. Some works might evoke an unexpectedly intimate encounter while others will illuminate the market's dense history,"* says Chief Curator Natalie King.

Throughout the lab phase, workshop sessions were led by an array of luminaries such as choreographer Gideon Obarzanek, psycho-geographer historian Robyn Anear, acoustic ecologist Leah Barclay and the curator/ chef partnership of Laura Thompson and Peter Gunn.

The result is a suite of commissions by artists who experiment in the market, listening to its murmurings. For one week during the Melbourne Festival, these interventions will be activated from the car park to the dairy hall, culminating in a finale day on Sunday 23 October.

Lab Artists: Jessie Bullivant; Will Foster and Gabrielle de Vietri from A Centre for Everything; Willurai Kirkbright; Isobel Knowles and Van Sowerwine; Sanné Mestrom and Jamie Hall from The Mechanic's Institute; Jason Maling and Martyn Coutts from Field Theory; Timothy Moore from SIBLING; Steven Rhall; Kiron Robinson and Hiromi Tango.

Curatorium: Natalie King (Chief Curator), David Cross (artist, curator, Head of Art and Performance, Deakin University), Jefa Greenaway (architect, Director,

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MELBOURNE  
FESTIVAL  
06—23  
OCTOBER 2016

# MEDIA RELEASE

Greenaway Architects and Indigenous Architecture and Design Victoria),  
Veronica Kent (artist, The Telepathy Project), Djon Mundine OAM (curator,  
activist and writer), Fiona Whitworth (QVM), Lynda Roberts (City of Melbourne)

International Affiliates: Claire Doherty (Director, Situations), Khairuddin Hori  
(artist and former Deputy Director of Artistic Programming, Palais de Tokyo,  
Paris), Hou Hanru (Director, MAXXI, Rome)

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