

22 November 2013 – 23 March 2014 | The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia and NGV International

Making Melbourne Fashion, textiles and contemporary jewellery

More than 40 fashion labels, shoemakers, jewellery practitioners and textile designers will feature in *Melbourne Now*. Providing an insight into Melbourne's vibrant and innovative fashion, textiles and jewellery communities, *Melbourne Now* showcases the work of both established and emerging practitioners.

Highlights include:

- **Toni Maticevski's** series of sculptural neoprene, silk and resin dresses floating in a three-floor stairwell are on display at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia;
- **MaterialByProduct's** working studio can be found on the third floor of NGV International. Designer Susan Dimasi draws inspiration from eighteenth-century brocaded silk fragments in the NGV Collection to create new works on a purpose-built loom designed by Broached Commissions;
- Cult label **Perks and Mini** (PAM) presents a multidisciplinary installation which celebrates fashion in action, recreating a nightclub scene incorporating a hypnotic and euphoric film involving fashion and community;
- **Douglas McManus** has created a new textile installation work comprised of three-dimensional organs that react to sound;
- **Preston Zly Design** have created a specially commissioned cobblers workshop, a magical children's display which sees recreations of four iconic shoes from fairytales and popular culture, including Cinderella's glass slippers and Dorothy's ruby shoes;
- *Designer Thinking*, an 'exhibition within the exhibition', presents the work of some of Melbourne's best emerging independent fashion designers including **Above, Alexi Freeman, From Britten, Kinoak, Lui Hon, Pageant, Strateas Carlucci and Verner**;
- Bespoke shoemakers from Melbourne are showcased through the work of six exemplary designers - **Claire Best, Phong Chi Lai, Brendan Dwyer, Theo Hassett, Preston Zly and Jess Wooten**;
- Melbourne is recognised internationally as a centre for contemporary jewellery. For *Melbourne Now* works from 20 outstanding independent contemporary jewellers represent this thriving community;
- **Anastasia Klose** has created and is staffing a pop-up shop selling 'knock-off' art t-shirts, recalling the defective aesthetic of pirated goods and reject shops, in an extraordinary endurance performance;
- Related programs include free **workshops** with leading designers in NGV International's Community Hall, and at the **Royal Botanic Runway** an inaugural runway event shows collections from Aurelio Costarella, Collette Dinnigan, Martin Grant and Akira Isogawa are showcased in the open air with the striking Guilfoyle's Volcano and Melbourne's city skyline as the backdrop.



Toni Maticevski

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia

Toni Maticevski has received substantial critical acclaim over the last decade for his demi-couture collection, with their mix of high glamour, exacting technical know-how and sleek and restrained tailoring. For *Melbourne Now*, Maticevski has produced a three-tiered sculptural work in neoprene, silk and resin, suspended in the towering three-floor stairwell at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia. The work, titled *Triptych in White*, magnifies the fundamentals of his practice and allows the public to engage with the specifics of his designs such as form, fabric, drape and decoration, from a number of spectacular vantage points.

MaterialByProduct

NGV International

The fashion designs of MaterialByProduct (MBP) are best described as luxury avant-garde, sitting outside of trend-driven seasonal collections. For *Melbourne Now*, MBP designer Susan Dimasi has established a working studio on Level 3 of NGV International. Titled *A poetic engagement in reproduction #1*, 2013, this introspective installation draws on eighteenth-century brocaded silk fragments from the NGV Collection to consider processes of production and reproduction in fashion. Seated at a purpose-built loom made in collaboration with design studio Broached Commissions, Dimasi re-weave motifs, such as the impossibly perfect scrolling ribbon, into new works which are then cut from the loom and reproduced as digitally-printed fabrics. By drawing attention to the hand of the maker, Dimasi encourages visitors to contemplate the craftsmanship implicit in her practice.

Perks and Mini

NGV International

Perks and Mini (PAM) is representative of the vibrant independent fashion scene that has been such a force within Melbourne fashion since the 1980s. Established in 2000 by Misha Hollenbach and Shauna Toohey, PAM is recognised for their distinct aesthetic of bold print designs, visual puns and idiosyncratic imagery. *Melbourne Now* sees the duo create a multidisciplinary installation, *The HOUSE HOUSE HOUSE of P.A.M.*, 2013, which celebrates the society and spectacle of the underground in its native environment – the club dancefloor. Housed behind a painted facade, a hypnotic and euphoric film celebrates the tenets of colour, creativity and community that define PAM.

Preston Zly Design

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia

Shoemaker Johanna Preston and sculptor Petr Zly formed Preston Zly Design in 1998 and became renowned for their signature style defined by bold colours, exaggerated forms and decorative devices such as broguing, topstitching and piping. For *Melbourne Now* Preston Zly Design have produced a theatrical children's display which recreates four iconic shoes from fairytales and popular culture, including Cinderella's glass slippers and Dorothy's ruby shoes. These shoes are presented in a theatrical pop-up style in front of oversized storybooks. Alongside this installation, children are invited to create their own paper shoes and experience the fascinating process of shoemaking.

Designer Thinking

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia

Designer Thinking showcases some of Melbourne's leading independent fashion designers through the work of Above, Alexi Freeman, From Britten, Kinoak, Lui Hon, Pageant, Strateas Carlucci and Verner. All of these artists work from contained inner-city studios to produce small and innovative ranges, pushing the boundaries of design possibilities via collaborations, new fabric technologies and novel methods of making. Contrasting aesthetics, construction methodologies, seasons and genders, each designer has developed a distinctive vocabulary that resonates singularly within Melbourne's rich fashion landscape.

Shoemakers

NGV International

This installation highlights recent work by six shoemakers who exemplify the current resurgence in traditional bespoke shoemaking practices in Melbourne: Claire Best, Phong Chi Lai, Brendan Dwyer, Theo Hassett, Preston Zly and Jess Wooten. Featuring both men's and women's shoes, the display presents modern interpretations of classics alongside innovative hybrid shoes that incorporate unexpected materials or sculptural approaches, allowing viewers to appreciate the extraordinary craftsmanship involved in bespoke shoe design through the dynamic Melbourne-based revival of this art.

Lucy Irvine

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia

Lucy Irvine's expansive organic works are made from industrial materials, woven incrementally and secured by tiny cable-tie 'stitches'. For *Melbourne Now* Irvine has constructed a large site-specific work at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, *Before the after*, 2013, which establishes a dialogue with the gallery building, its architecture and the temporality of the exhibition. Spilling out across the floor, her black serpentine form clings to the interior of the building.

Douglas McManus

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia

Douglas McManus is a textile artist with a significant history of experimental practice in the areas of digital printing and nanotechnology. For *Melbourne Now*, McManus has created a new installation work using laser cutting, engraving, perforation and thermo moulding. *Permanent extraction*, 2013, incorporates fibre optics, mono filament and malleable fluoro neon tubing to create three-dimensional organs – heart and lungs. The heart and lungs on the walls react to sound, creating a work that glows and rises and subsides as if breathing.

Michelle Hamer

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia

Michelle Hamer is an architect-turned-textile artist whose work interrogates the vernacular of Melbourne's civic landscape. Hamer's contribution to *Melbourne Now* pairs works referencing local signage along with three earlier tapestries from a series made in the United States. The result is a reflection on the nuances of typography, built architecture and native vegetation in relation to time and place.

Contemporary Jewellery

NGV International

Along with Munich, Amsterdam and other cities, Melbourne is recognised as a leading centre for the production of contemporary jewellery. This display, designed by Melbourne architecture firm Muir Mendes, features more than 20 local practitioners with a variety of technical, material and conceptual approaches to making jewellery. Necklaces, bracelets, rings and brooches of precious and semiprecious metals sit alongside others made of resin, porcelain, glass, plant, animal and recycled materials. The represented jewellers are: Robert Baines, Roseanne Bartley, Nicholas Bastin, Bin Dixon-Ward, Mark Edgoose, Maureen Faye-Chauhan, Stephen Gallagher, Allona Goren, Kirsten Haydon, Jo Hawley, Marian Hosking, Carlier Makigawa, Sally Marsland, Vicki Mason, David Neale, Tiffany Parbs, Nicole Polentas, Phoebe Porter, Emma Price, Lousje Skala, Blanche Tilden, Meredith Turnbull and Manon van Kouswijk.

Anastasia Klose
NGV International

Anastasia Klose's drawings, performance and video works humorously contemplate the banality of everyday experience. For *Melbourne Now*, Anastasia Klose presents *One stop knock-off shop, 2013*, a critique of the commercialisation of contemporary culture, not least the rise of the art market, as well as prevailing notions of the artist as celebrity. Open during museum hours for the duration of *Melbourne Now*, Klose's 'knock-off' shop is staffed by the artist and sells a range of artist edition merchandise. Recalling the defective aesthetic of pirated goods and reject shops, Klose's products aspire to our innermost (and unfashionable) desire for all things novelty and kitsch.

Melbourne Now is on display at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia and NGV International from 22 November 2013 – 23 March 2014. 10am – 5pm. Free entry.



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ngv.vic.gov.au

Image caption:

Kinoak, Melbourne (fashion house)

Amie Kohane (designer)

Kiwaa dress 2013

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