

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

Melbourne Now for Kids



A highlight of *Melbourne Now* is nine interactive children's artworks especially commissioned by the National Gallery of Victoria to engage specifically with younger audiences. The extraordinary projects take children on a journey through the Gallery where they explore contemporary art and creativity at a whole new level.

With support from *Melbourne Now* Champions, Ron and Katie Dewhurst, kids are given the opportunity to participate in a range of hands on activities from populating a vast country sky with thousands of birds, to creating and performing their own musical score using everyday objects and instruments.

The immersive children's commissions developed especially for *Melbourne Now* include:

- A panorama where children populate a skyscape with thousands of **bird stickers** by **Juan Ford**;
- **Meredith Turnbull's** installation has an abundance of colourful tubes and geometric shapes for **children to design and create wearable sculptures**;
- An '**anti-music**' studio for children to create and perform their own musical score using everyday objects as instruments for **John Nixon's Donkey's Tail Jnr**;
- **Tim Flemming's** Rowbin and Tobin invite you to play Melbourne's own game of **Trugo** on a lawn designed by **PHOOEY architects**;
- Children's curiosity will be piqued by **Daniel von Sturmer's** explorative installation;
- In a cobblers workshop create your own contemporary paper shoes designed by **Preston Zly**;
- Explore the way people can live in a habitat built by **Slow Art Collective**;
- Photograph your family within a scene of the sickly-sweet icing filled foyer by the **Hotham Street Ladies**.

A unique children's publication has also been developed in close collaboration with Melbourne contemporary art group, the Hotham Street Ladies. This fun, exciting, hardcover publication provides a quirky narrative about Melbourne and its contemporary art through the lens of our city's unique food-related art collective.

Exhibitions:

Daniel von Sturmer

Daniel von Sturmer creates spatial interventions that propose video as a sculptural component within larger, architectural frameworks. For *Melbourne Now*, he features video projections and animated objects on a large tilted plane that he invites children to explore and view from different perspectives.

Hotham Street Ladies

Celebrated for their creation of social platforms related to share house parties, cake decoration, street art and graffiti, the Hotham Street Ladies installation transforms the foyer of The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia into an icing-bombed domestic wonderland. Children and families are invited to photograph themselves within one of the scenes from HSL's icing- and lolly-encrusted share house. HSL have also contributed to a children's book about Melbourne and its contemporary art, *Hotham Street Ladies: A Book for Kids*.

Jan Senbergs

An interest in the built environment and its relationship to the landscape has been a characteristic element of Jan Senbergs's practice for the past fifty years. He has created a room lined with a frieze of images, including historical printed maps, contemporary Indigenous paintings and examples of his own work. Children and their parents are invited to draw their own picture map – depicting their street, suburb, city or imagined world as they see it – which will then be pinned to the wall, creating a rich pictorial vision of Melbourne.

The Donkey's Tail Jr

Formed in 2007 by artist John Nixon, The Donkey's Tail is an experimental art-music ensemble featuring a diverse array of artists, musicians and amateur collaborators who perform Nixon's unconventional musical compositions. The Donkey's Tail Jr encourages children to experiment with sound, and create, perform and record their improvised scores using various musical and sound-making instruments and found objects.

Juan Ford

Juan Ford is best known for his realist paintings of people, landscape, nature, light and shadow. In recent times he has created installations incorporating photography. Having spent time in the vast Australian landscape, Juan Ford was struck by the enormity of the sky and the behaviour of flocking birds. As children enter the space they are encouraged to explore the configurations of how birds flock and behavior by adding bird stickers to the panorama. Each added bird sticker will change the shape and movement of the flock as it grows and becomes over populated, prompting us to consider human behavior and highlighting our interaction with habitats.

Meredith Turnbull

Meredith Turnbull is an interdisciplinary artist who works across sculpture, jewellery and installation. For *Melbourne Now* she has created a large scale installation with sculptural forms, printed murals and a wall painting. Within this dynamic space, children are invited to create their own wearable sculpture exploring form, scale, texture and colour.

Preston Zly

Bespoke shoemaker Preston Zly has recreated four iconic shoes from much loved fairytales and popular culture including Cinderella's glass slippers and Dorothy's ruby red shoes from The Wizard of Oz. Each shoe is magically presented in a theatrical pop-up book and children can make their own paper shoes while learning about the process of shoemaking.

Slow Art Collective

Slow Art Collective is a group of artists that explore ethics relating to production, sustainability and the environment. For *Melbourne Now*, the collective created an installation made from reclaimed and recycled materials that encourages children to think about living a sustainable domestic life.

Trugo-GoGo

Trugo-GoGo is a collaboration between award winning architects PHOOEY and Melbourne artist and designer, Tim Flemming. Trugo-GoGo is an immersive up-cycle of the unique Melbourne game of Trugo invented by

railway workers in the 1920's. Children enter a custom designed arena with a wacky lawn where they can sharpen their wits as they aim to strike a wheel into a chiming goal using a rubber mallet.

Children's Festival

From 18–26 January 2014 the NGV will come alive with a range of activities, tours and workshops with the biggest NGV festival for children to date. Activities include tours, workshops and performances and over the Australia Day weekend, families are invited to bring along a picnic and enjoy festivities in the Great Hall, garden and the inaugural Community Hall at NGV International. Details to be announced.

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.



Join the conversation via #melbournenow and download the free *Melbourne Now* App and ebook.
ngv.vic.gov.au

Image caption: Hotham Street Ladies at work on the NGV children's publication *Hotham Street Ladies: A Book for Kids*