

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

Sound

Melbourne's diverse independent music scene is well-known for its strong relationship with the visual arts as artists from both genres often inform and inspire each other's work. The music and sound elements of *Melbourne Now* explore some of the diverse representations of sound and music occurring in Melbourne today.



Highlights include:

- **Now Hear This** a program of experimental sound art by local artists showcases Melbourne's diverse and innovative music scene;
- **Disruptions** sees a trio of Melbourne's most recognised experimental sound and light artists, Oren Ambarchi, Robin Fox and Marco Fusinato perform their mesmerizing, arresting and genre-breaking sounds as part of Melbourne Now's Satellite Event schedule;
- John Nixon has created **The Donkey's Tail**, an installation which invites the audience to explore the group's experimental approach to musical composition, instrument-making, performance and graphic design;
- **The Donkey's Tail Jnr** is an installation for kids, as well as adults, which encourages participants to create and record their own experimental musical scores;
- **Slave Pianos** have created *Gamelan sisters*, 2013 a historically-based electromechanical 'slave' gamelan which plays a series of the collective's compositions;
- Batman Park, formed as part of the NGV's **Wired for Melbourne Sound** project, launch their EP and cassette tape at the Opening Weekend of *Melbourne Now*;
- As part of Community Hall's **Show-Off** series, everything from cutting edge sound collectives to community choirs perform on the space's purpose built stage. The Opening Weekend will see Ancient Memories play their unique take on the work of Cornelius Cardew. They perform their own version of his instructional piece *Scratch Music* in which the musicians write their own parts beforehand, in isolation, and then play them together – any rhythm or harmony is completely accidental;
- **Friday Nights at Melbourne Now** plays host to notable Melbourne bands and musicians so that visitors can enjoy the beats while they sample gourmet food, share a drink with friends and enjoy focus talks.

Now Hear This

NGV Australia

Melbourne's burgeoning and internationally recognised sound art and experimental music scene is celebrated through *Now Hear This*. A selection of the city's sound artists curate a program which offers a snapshot of the innovative and creative work occurring in this field. The Melbourne based artists include Eamon Sprod, Camilla Hannan, Phillip Samartzis, Thambi Soddell, Oren Ambarchi, Stéphanie Kabanyana Kanyandekwe, Sean Baxte and Emily Siddons.

Each artist has selected ten pieces, including examples of their own work, around thematic categories that range from technical sound art processes to more conceptual approaches to the practice. An immersive and experiential work, the program involves diverse combinations of electronic effects, sampling, musical instruments, location recording, vocal manipulation and computer processing and editing.

The program also encompasses a series of occasional performances as part of *Melbourne Now's* Satellite program. The first event is planned for December 4 and will see the Corner Hotel host guest curator, Oren Ambarchi present his playlist, *Disruptions* (see further details below).

Disruptions

Corner Hotel, Wed 4 Dec

Oren Ambarchi, Robin Fox and Marco Fusinato, three of Melbourne's most recognised experimentalists come together at the Corner Hotel in December to present an earth shattering mix of deeply sculpted tones, wild chaotic noise and blinding audio-vision. The trio get together to play a show once a year, and this year have linked their performance with the NGV's *Melbourne Now* program.

The show will provide a snapshot of three artists whose work has been hugely influential on the Melbourne and Australian experimental music scene for well over a decade. Fusinato, best known for his incisive work in the visual art, will perform his unique brand of analog infused guitar noise; Ambarchi, the undisputed master of the hypnotic drone and blissful bass bomb, will present his duo version of 'Knots'; and Fox, will return to his hometown for a rare Melbourne appearance with his laser show which is guaranteed to redefine your understanding of sound and light.

Tickets \$15 at the door

The Donkey's Tail

NGV International and NGV Australia

The Donkey's Tail is an experimental art-music ensemble by artist John Nixon, involving a diverse collection of musicians, artists and amateur collaborators. Known for their engaging and unexpected performances, a Donkey's Tail event often involves homemade instruments constructed from found objects, traditional instruments played in unconventional new ways and lots of improvisation.

For *Melbourne Now* John Nixon has created an installation, *The Donkey's Tail*, encompassing homemade instruments, CDs, photos, paintings, graphic scores, sheet music cover designs, flyers, posters and abstract kinetic videos, all of which will invite the audience to explore the group's experimental approach to musical composition, instrument-making, performance and graphic design.

For the kids, Nixon has created *The Donkey's Tail Jnr*. This project encourages not just the little ones but adults as well, to experiment with sound. The installation allows participants to create, perform and record their own improvised scores using various instruments and found objects including ukuleles, pots and spoons and squeaky toys.

Slave Pianos

NGV Australia

Slave Pianos is a musical collective made up of artists, composers and musicians Rohan Drape, Neil Kelly, Danus Kesminas, Michael Stevenson and Dave Nelson. Each work is accurately researched to create historically based installations and performances which utilise humour, immediacy and a blend of 'high' and 'low' idioms to suggest connections between the fields of music, art and architecture.

For *Melbourne Now*, Slave Pianos presents *Gamelan sisters*, 2013, an electromechanical 'slave' gamelan, which allows participants to select pieces from a repertoire of the collective's compositions and other related scores via a wall-mounted console. The instrument features Slave Pianos' space opera *The Lepidoptera* which is based on a three-part science fiction story set in Indonesia.

Wired for Melbourne Sound

NGV International and NGV Australia

In the lead-up to *Melbourne Now*, the *Wired for Melbourne Sound* project saw NGV Studio transformed into a recording studio and Batman Park, a 'super group' of Melbourne musicians installed to write, record and produce an EP. The result of their collaboration is launched on the Opening Weekend of *Melbourne Now*.

Giving a voice to the local music industry, the collaboration between six local artists including Evelyn Morris (Pikelet), Jess Cornelius (Teeth & Tongue), Thomas Mendelovits (Milk Teddy), Lachlan Denton (The Ocean Party), Alex Badham (Aleks and the Ramps) and solo artist Pascal Babare. Their work will be played in public spaces across both NGV sites during *Melbourne Now* and a limited-edition cassette featuring their tunes is available in the NGV Shop.

Community Hall: Music Events

NGV International

The visually striking, architecturally designed Community Hall is a space dedicated to the Melbourne community. Over one hundred days it will host numerous community groups and will feature diverse cultural programming including performance, design collectives, choirs, reading groups, recycling initiatives, cake-making and writers groups.

- **Show-Off**

From community choirs to cutting edge sound collectives, performance artists, dancers & poets, NGV has scoured the streets to bring audiences the finest Melbourne has to offer. The Opening Weekend features performances by Ancient Memories, Performance Poets, DJ Principle Blackman, Darren Sylvester and Bodyelectricdance Studio.

- **Melbourne Music**

A selection of music by Melbourne's best emerging and established musicians.

Free, Ground Level

Friday Nights at Melbourne Now

28 Feb, 7, 14, 21 Mar, 5.30 – 9.30pm

NGV Australia and NGV International

Over four nights at NGV Australia and NGV International, enjoy live performances by Melbourne's best artists and musicians, feast on great food, share a drink with friends and enjoy focus talks.

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: Robin Fox, *Laser performance*, 2013