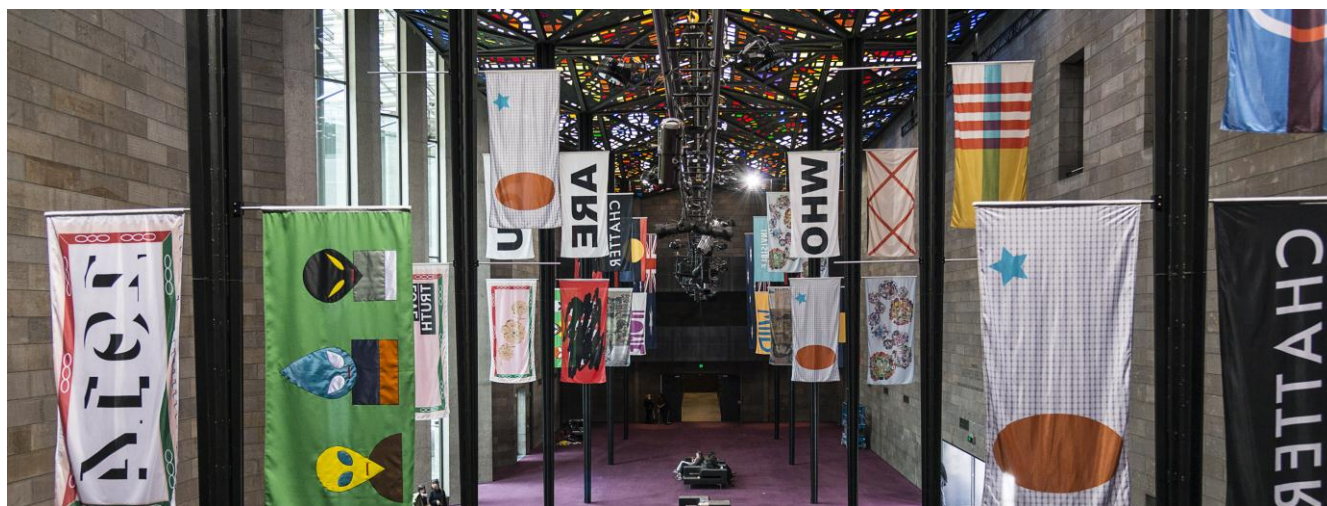


RAISING THE FLAG



Over the past few weeks flags designed by Melbourne artists were surreptitiously raised across the city. Jon Campbell's 'four letter words' began to fly on working cranes with the words LOVE, SING and YEAH. John Warwicker placed his reimagined Australian flag atop the Royal Exhibition Buildings acknowledging the indigenous ground and its people's relationship to the land, and three flags with WHO, ARE and YOU were placed atop Flinders Street Station.

In all 41 flags have been quietly unfurled at sites including the Town Hall, Manchester Unity Building, Royal Botanic Gardens with an enormous 15 metre wide flag shouting SALE (with the word scribbled out) flying at the Haymarket roundabout.

Duplicates of the flags are now flying simultaneously in the NGV's Great Hall. The reverential cathedral-style hang showcases all the flags from Rosslynd Piggott, Anne Wu, Tin & Ed, Jon Campbell, Tom Nicholson, Hannah Tai, Helen Johnson, John Warwicker, Kate Daw, Destiny Deacon, Matt Griffin, Aleks Danko, Brook Andrew, Callum Morton and SIX.

The project, *On Top of the World: Flags for Melbourne*, is a part of *Melbourne Now* and has been curated by Stewart Russell of Spacecraft Studios to consider the symbolic, semantic and decorative potential of flags.

Max Delany, Senior curator, Contemporary Art, NGV said that the flags invite us to celebrate and debate questions of place and cultural identity, communication and belonging.

"Each of the artists has designed a flag that specifically responds to the site in which it flies to commemorate its social, cultural, political or architectural relevance and heritage.

"Flags are often aligned with notions of triumph or resistance or can be seen as celebratory acts of community, festivals and parades. *On Top of the World: Flags for Melbourne* aims to present an alternative opportunity for flag-waving," Mr Delany said.

Projects include the raising of a flag by Helen Johnson at Princes Hill Primary School, where, in 1901, a 13 year old student, Ivor Evans, was winner of a national competition to design Australia's national flag; and a flag exchange between the NGV and Trades Hall, organised by artist Tom Nicholson, in which volunteers of both organisations march flags along Swanston Street to each other's institution..

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the City of Melbourne was delighted to support this project as part of *Melbourne Now*.

"*On Top of the World: Flags for Melbourne* is an imaginative way to tell the stories of our city. By bringing world class art into the streets, this project ensures that all Melburnians can be part of the NGV's innovative *Melbourne Now* exhibition," said Lord Mayor Robert Doyle.

-ends-

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

Media contacts:

Sharon Wells: 0419 508 619 | panbacc@optusnet.com.au

Elisabeth Alexander: 03 8620 2347 | 0439 348 357 | elisabeth.alexander@ngv.vic.gov.au

Jessica Hedger: 03 8620 2411 | 0438 582 727 | jessica.hedger@ngv.vic.gov.au

Image caption:

SPACECRAFT, Melbourne

Australia est. 2000

On top of the world: Flags for Melbourne 2013

cotton, mono filament polyester, silk, metallic foil, digital prints, screen printing, reverse applique, fringing
(1-48) dimensions (variable) (each)

Supported by the City of Melbourne