

# biennale of sydney

international festival of contemporary art

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## BIENNALE OF SYDNEY AWARDED AUSTRALIAN EVENT OF THE YEAR

A judging panel of event industry experts, co-chaired by Johnny Allen and Sandy Hollway, awarded *Australian Event of the Year* to the **16th Biennale of Sydney: Revolutions – Forms That Turn**.

Announced at the 2009 Australian Event Awards in Sydney last night, the Biennale of Sydney was also awarded *Best Cultural or Arts Event*. The 16th Biennale exhibition, under the artistic direction of **Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev**, was recognised by the judges as the most innovative event in Australia for last year, demonstrating an outstanding example of best practise in the events industry.

**Marah Braye**, Chief Executive Officer, Biennale of Sydney, said: 'We are overjoyed by both the critical and public response to the 16th Biennale of Sydney and are honoured to be recognised by this panel of event industry experts. It is a great reward for the exhibition to touch the hearts and minds of the general public and informed connoisseurs alike.'

Ms. Braye continued: 'The Biennale of Sydney is very proud of its record of presenting free to the public the work of more than 1355 artists from over 82 countries. Our charter champions accessibility, inclusion and embracing cultural diversity. Access – both conceptual and practical – is a hallmark of the Biennale of Sydney, whose exhibition and public programs are presented free, thanks to grants from three levels of the Australian government (federal, state and city), as well as foreign government partners and cultural funding organisations. Additionally, the Biennale of Sydney benefits from the contributions and advocacy of a network of generous sponsors, benefactors and supporters, who make all the difference.'

Congratulations to all the Australian Event Award winners and finalists.

The 17th Biennale of Sydney, 'THE BEAUTY OF DISTANCE: Songs of Survival in a Precarious Age', will take place from 12 May – 1 August 2010 under the artistic direction of **David Elliott**. Venues include Cockatoo Island, Pier 2/3, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney Opera House, Royal Botanic Gardens and Artspace. As Australia's largest and most exciting contemporary visual arts event the 17th Biennale of Sydney will celebrate the organisation's 37th anniversary.

## Media enquiries

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The Biennale of Sydney gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the many organisations and individuals that make the exhibition and its programs possible