

**PRESS RELEASE
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melbournartfair.com.au

Melbourne Art Fair: Australasia’s most progressive forum for contemporary art returns

18 – 21 June 2020, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

Melbourne, Australia: Australasia’s most progressive forum for contemporary art returns in 2020 (18 – 21 June) to present iconic and new work by artists from over 50 of the region’s most respected galleries.

Melbourne Art Fair is a seminal fixture on the Australasian cultural calendar, stimulating critical and commercial attention for galleries and their artists for over 30 years. With this global creative city as a backdrop, the fair returns for its 16th edition to take up residence at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, continuing its lead role in the region for fostering the development of new audiences for contemporary art.

Melbourne Art Foundation CEO and Fair Director, Maree Di Pasquale says, *“Melbourne Art Fair 2020 signifies a key moment in the evolution of the event as a platform for contemporary art and ideas. With strong curatorial affiliations we are developing a bold artistic program that will embrace galleries at the forefront of the contemporary art market – galleries with a rotating program of the region’s most exciting artists.*

After a temporary home in 2018, Melbourne Art Fair is ready to be elevated to a fair of international standing taking up residence at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. With proximity to the Melbourne Arts Precinct and world-class institutions NGV International, ACCA and The University of Melbourne, we look forward to continuing our partnerships to further position the city as the art and ideas capital of Australia.”

Co-timed with DENFAIR, Australia’s leading destination for contemporary design, the 16th edition of Melbourne Art Fair will build on its long-standing success and reputation, as well as tailor an offering to welcome an established audience of architects and interior designers.

Melbourne Art Foundation Chair Charles Justin says, *“Committed to bringing artists, galleries, collectors, and visitors together, the Foundation leads the way in building audiences and markets for contemporary art. The alignment with DENFAIR demonstrates our commitment to expanding and enriching the visitor experience, to broaden the awareness and global movement of coupling art and collectable design, whilst providing an exciting destination for the connoisseur and art loving public alike.”*

Melbourne Art Fair joins the raft of international art fairs that take place in convention and exhibition venues around the world. Charles continues, *“The Melbourne Convention and Exhibition*

Melbourne Art Fair 18–21 June 20

Melbourne Convention
and Exhibition Centre

Centre designed by architecture heavyweights Denton Corker Marshall is the ideal, long-term home for Melbourne Art Fair. With world-class exhibition facilities, central CBD access and proximity to the Melbourne Arts Precinct, it provides the best possible setting for an art fair of international standards."

Galleries will be hand selected to participate in two exhibition sectors:

Galleries: the region's most significant galleries present new and iconic works from leading artists, through solo shows and curated projects.

Accent: a thought-provoking platform for emerging artists with specially conceived projects from ten of the region's most progressive young galleries. Discover artists with a new perspective that are shifting the global conversation around contemporary art.

Making its debut in 2020, **Beyond** harnesses the monumental exhibition spaces within the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Carefully curated installations and spatial interventions will fill the epic spaces contributing to greater conversations and presenting opportunities for artists far beyond the art fair stand.

A major drawcard of the fair is the returning **Melbourne Art Foundation Commission**. The program, now in its 8th year, provides a living artist with a rare opportunity to realise a large-scale work for unveiling at Melbourne Art Fair, which is later gifted to a prominent Australian institution.

Melbourne Art Fair is supported by government partners Creative Victoria and the Australia Council for the Arts under the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy.

Gallery applications are now open, closing 18 October 2019. For information visit melbournartfair.com.au.

- Notes to Editors -

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Event Details

Melbourne Art Fair runs from Thursday 18 to Sunday 21 June 2020 at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

Visit melbournartfair.com.au for further details.

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About Melbourne Art Foundation

Established in 2003, Melbourne Art Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation established to promote and support contemporary art and living Australian artists. Committed to bringing artists, galleries, collectors, and visitors together, the Foundation leads the way in building audiences and a market for Australia's living contemporary artists. It weaves together commercial, social, cultural, and environmental threads to support the rich cultural tapestry of the Australian visual arts community. The Foundation facilitates Melbourne Art Week and Melbourne Art Fair (founded 1988), Australasia's progressive forum for contemporary art and ideas, supporting galleries and artists by inspiring exchange and patronage in the visual arts. The Foundation sponsors a range of programs including major commissions, project rooms, public talks, collector programs, workshops, and tours.

About Maree Di Pasquale, CEO and Fair Director Melbourne Art Foundation

Maree Di Pasquale is credited with successfully repositioning and relaunching Melbourne Art Fair 2018 in the Southbank Arts Precinct as a leading showcase for Australasian contemporary art. She was previously Director of Strategic Partnerships, MCB Visit Victoria (2016-2017). A member of the leadership team for Art Fairs Australia / Single Market Events (2010-2016), Maree played a pivotal role in developing new ventures in new markets, most notably as founding Director of Art Central Hong Kong (2014-2016) and Assistant Director of Sydney Contemporary (2013) and Melbourne Art Fair (2014). She has also delivered public programs for Abu Dhabi Art Fair and the Saadiyat Island Cultural District (Louvre Abu Dhabi, the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and the Zayed National Museum) (2009-2010). BA Creative Industries, QUT. MA Marketing, Melbourne Business School. Board Member 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art.

About Charles Justin, Chair Melbourne Art Foundation

Charles Justin was a Founding Director of architecture and design practice, SJB, and Managing Director of Plus Architecture. Charles was the RAIA (now AIA) Victorian Chapter President and was awarded a Life Fellowship of the Australian Institute of Architects. Following his retirement from architectural practice, Charles and his wife Leah established the Justin Art House Museum- JAHM, a privately funded, not for profit house museum which opened to the public in April 2016. It presents curated exhibitions both from their contemporary art collection and externally sourced, with a supporting public program. Charles has also served on the board of the Jewish Museum of Australia, for five years as President, and was recently made a Life Member.