

# Melbourne Art Fair 18–21 June 20

Melbourne Convention  
and Exhibition Centre

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 29 AUGUST 2019**

## Melbourne Art Fair names inaugural artistic director for 2020

**Melbourne, Australia:** Melbourne Art Foundation today announces the **appointment of Emily Cormack as the Melbourne Art Fair 2020 Artistic Director**, a new position that will oversee the artistic direction for the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the fair.

**Cormack is an independent curator and writer**, most recently appointed curator at TarraWarra Biennial (2018), and has curated exhibitions across Australia, the Asia Pacific and Europe.

**Melbourne Art Foundation CEO and Fair Director Maree Di Pasquale says**, *“We are thrilled that Emily Cormack will be working with us to define the 2020 edition, to develop a bold artistic program that both challenges and engages a diverse audience.”*

*“She is a curator that is drawn to the experimentation and dynamism of emerging arts practices and we look forward to materialising this in the development and programming of the fair.”*

This new, high profile position signifies a key moment in the evolution of Melbourne Art Fair as a forum for contemporary art and ideas. Changing on a biennial basis, the artistic director will establish a unique fair identity for each edition, providing galleries, collectors and the art-loving public even more reason to attend and engage every two years.

*“While artistic directors are more prominent in biennales and festivals, the creation of this position demonstrates Melbourne Art Foundation’s commitment to producing a fair of the highest curatorial standard, and reflects the public’s demand for original thematic experiences,”* Di Pasquale adds.

**Emily Cormack says**, *“As a curator I am increasingly focused on the moment of encounter, how we can be held captive by this affective and activating experience. As Artistic Director of Melbourne Art Fair, I look forward to exploring how these encounters play out within the expanded platform of the newly reconfigured art fair. In this new role, I will focus on the activity generated by these moments of connection, where the art fair’s diverse audiences are enlivened by a honed collection of innovative, sometimes challenging and always captivating contemporary art.”*

Melbourne Art Fair, Australasia’s most progressive forum for contemporary art, will take place 18 – 21 June 2020 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, presenting iconic and new work by artists from over 50 of the region’s most respected galleries.

Melbourne Art Fair continues to be a seminal fixture on the Australasian cultural calendar, stimulating critical and commercial attention for galleries and their artists for over 30 years.

**Melbourne Art Foundation**  
A not for profit organisation  
ABN 76 104 671 589



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As the Artistic Director, Cormack will work with the fair's curatorial committees to select galleries and artists for the following programs:

**Galleries**, the main exhibition sector, presents the region's most significant galleries with new and iconic works from leading artists in solo shows and curated projects.

**Accent** is 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. Melbourne Art Foundation provides a monetary grant for each participating gallery.

Partnering with independent art spaces and non-collecting institutions from across Australia and New Zealand, **Project Rooms** offer a platform for experimentation featuring artists that push the boundaries of performative and multidisciplinary works.

A major drawcard of the fair is the returning **Melbourne Art Foundation Commission**. The AU\$70,000 commission, now in its 8th year, provides a living artist with the opportunity to realise a large-scale work for unveiling at Melbourne Art Fair, which is later gifted to a prominent Australian institution. The 2020 Commission partner will be announced in September.

**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 more information visit [melbournartfair.com.au](http://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](http://melbournartfair.com.au) for further details.

@melbournartfair #melbournartfair

**About Emily Cormack, Melbourne Art Fair 2020 Artistic Director**

Emily Cormack has been curating exhibitions and public art since 2001 in an institutional and freelance context throughout the Asia Pacific region and in Europe. Recent exhibitions include *From Will to Form: 2018 Tarrawarra Biennale*, and *Primavera: Young Australian Artists (2016)* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney.

She has been co-curator of major international projects including; *City Within the City (2011)*, Art Sonje, Seoul, South Korea; *Still Vast Reserves (2010)*, Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, Rome, Italy; *And the Difference Is (2009)*, National University Museum, Singapore; *The Independence Project (2008)*, Galeri Petronas, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and *100 sound Works By 100 Sound Artists from the 21st Century (2008)*, Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne. Since 2001 she has curated over 27 exhibitions and managed more than fifty, as well as consulting on numerous public art projects. Emily has worked as Curator at Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne, the Adam Art Gallery, Wellington and as Co-Founder and Co-Director of Conical ARI, Melbourne. In 2005, Emily managed the New Zealand Pavilion at the Venice Biennial, and in 2003 she undertook a Curatorial Internship at the Museum of Modern Art, New York City.

**About Maree Di Pasquale, CEO and 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). Di Pasquale holds a BA Creative Industries, QUT. MA Marketing, Melbourne Business School and is a board member at the 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art.

**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.