



Image: Angelica MESITI, *Mother Tongue*, 2017, (still) two-channel HD colour video, surround-sound, 17 minutes. Courtesy the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne. Commissioned by Aarhus European Capital of Culture 2017 in association with the 2018 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art. Photo: Bonnie Elliott.

Media Release: Samstag Museum of Art | 2018 Program Launch

Over the past ten years, the University of South Australia's Samstag Museum of Art has built an impressive history of exhibitions and special events. In 2018, Samstag is proud to present a year-long program which continues its dedication to showcasing a rich diversity of ambitious contemporary visual art practices.

Samstag's 2018 program launches on **3 March** with the **2018 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: *Divided Worlds***, a major Adelaide Festival exhibition curated by Samstag Director Erica Green and featuring the work of 30 artists from across the country.

Divided Worlds, says Green, 'offers an opportunity to experience an alternative dimension – one where "difference" is the natural order of things and a strength to be celebrated.'

With its venues extending across Adelaide's North Terrace cultural boulevard—now conveniently connected by tram—the 2018 Adelaide Biennial will be presented at the Art Gallery of South Australia, Samstag Museum of Art, JamFactory and Santos Museum of Economic Botany in the Adelaide Botanic Garden.

On March 3 and 4 join us for the 2018 Adelaide Biennial Vernissage Weekend! The Vernissage includes free artist talks, panels and performances featuring artists exhibiting in *Divided Worlds*.

In a new event inspired by *Divided Worlds* and the filmic passions of its participating artists, the Media Resource Centre and Mercury Cinema are delighted to announce the Adelaide Cinémathèque ***Making Worlds*** season. *Making Worlds* launches on Saturday 3 March at 4pm with the SA premiere of Abderrahmane Sissako's *Timbuktu*. For film details and bookings, please visit mercurycinema.org.au.

To celebrate the launch of *Divided Worlds*, Samstag will host the **Vernissage Party in Fenn Place on Saturday 3 March** from 5 to 7pm, featuring music by Max Savage and the False Idols, with refreshments by the West Oak Hotel. All welcome!

Samstag also draws from the first major survey of the work of Australian-born artist **Christian Thompson** to present ***Ritual Intimacy*** at **University of South Australia's SASA Gallery** from 12 February to 18 March. *Ritual Intimacy* features *Berceuse*, 2017, an ambitious new commission. In this immersive video installation, Thompson sings in Bidjara, his ancestral language that is considered to be officially endangered.

Opening 15 June, Samstag presents Adelaide artist **Aldo Iacobelli's *A Conversation with Jheronimus***, a fascinating dialogue between the artist and Hieronymus Bosch—one of Europe's great Renaissance masters—exploring humanity's ongoing struggle for moral safe ground. Concurrently we will see ***Montages: The Full Cut 1999 - 2015***, the full suite of eight montage films by artist **Tracey Moffatt** who represented Australia at the prestigious Venice Biennale in 2017. In *Montages*, Moffatt and film editor Gary Hillberg source footage from Hollywood films to tap into the humour and pathos of universally shared subjects such as art, revolution, love and destruction.

The Samstag Museum of Art's 2018 exhibitions program concludes with two exhibitions running from 14 September to 30 November for the Adelaide Film Festival. In an exciting partnership between the National Portrait Gallery and the National Film and Sound Archive, ***Starstruck: Australian Movie Portraits*** reveals never-before-seen stories of Australian cinema through photographic portraits, candid behind-the-scenes shots, rare film posters and original costumes. Samstag is also proud to premiere ***The Waiting Room*** by award-winning filmmakers **Molly Reynolds and Rolf de Heer**. This cinematic installation is Reynolds's and de Heer's first foray into creating work for an exhibition in a gallery setting.

Green says that collaborations and partnerships have played a large part in Samstag Museum's past success. "Samstag is delighted to again be working with our Festival partners to present the 2018 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art as part of the Adelaide Festival, in addition to a brand new commission by celebrated filmmakers Molly Reynolds and Rolf de Heer for the Adelaide Film Festival."

* * *

Complementing the 2018 exhibitions program, the Samstag Museum will be presenting events and activities along with publications and online resources. For details about Samstag's programs and visiting the Museum, please visit unisa.edu.au/samstagmuseum.

* * *

For all media enquiries and information contact Erica Green, Director, Samstag Museum of Art, University of South Australia on 0438 821 239 or erica.green@unisa.edu.au.