

WONDERMENT WALK VICTORIA

Bringing art, science and knowledge to the streets of Melbourne

Free exhibition of **JOHN OLSEN'S** new sculptural work *Frogs*, **VINCENT FANTAUZZO'S** *30/30 Project* and
Wonderment Walk Victoria Floor Talk
Yarra Gallery, Fed Square

The launch of **Wonderment Walk Victoria** on **February 12, 2014 at the Yarra Gallery, Federation Square**, will be the first step in an innovative plan to introduce newly commissioned sculptures created to promote art, science and knowledge into Melbourne's historical, architectural and creative walking tours.

Wonderment Walk Victoria (WWV) is a not for profit organisation founded by Melbourne businessman **Eddie Kutner**. Mr Kutner was inspired by the idea that great societies are defined through their art, science and knowledge.

With fellow board members **Peter Yates AM**, **Leon Kempler OAM** and **Carolyn Reynolds**, **WWV** aims to create accessible open air galleries of sculptures and installations that combine art, science, and knowledge to engage passers-by.

WWV will be looking to new and established artists to work with public, corporate and private investors in creating the sculptural wonders and finding suitable locations for their installation as part of the wonderment walking routes.

"Wonderment Walk Victoria will strengthen Melbourne's reputation as a creative city of knowledge by enhancing walking routes and connecting places of significance with sculptural wonderments. The commissioning of new works will provide opportunities for emerging artists and sculptors as well as established and renowned artists. The criteria of the works will need to encompass the arts, sciences, mathematics and knowledge to excite, inspire and educate", said Mr Kutner.

Several sculptural wonderments commissioned or acquired by **WWV** will be on display at the launch and open for public viewing at the **Yarra Gallery, Federation Square** from **3-28 February**.

The two showcase wonderments are **John Olsen's** *Frogs* and **Vincent Fantauzzo's** *30/30 Project* with works from **Dr Stuart Kohlhausen** and **Georgie Pinn** also on display.

Commissioned by **WWV**, **John Olsen**, one of Australia's most significant and accomplished artists has crafted super-sized *Frogs*, cast in bronze and towering over 2 metres tall. *Frogs* is a remarkable sculpture that draws attention to the fragility of our environment and the essential role that frogs play as bio-indicators of a healthy and strong society – when the frogs are singing so is the community.

Currently being developed by **WWV**, **Georgie Pinn's** *Electric Puppet* is an animation project created originally as a children's workshop and offers a full body interactive experience activated in real time. The work also responds to and develops further John Olsen's extremely powerful and magical rendition of the frog, connecting man to nature via a robot.

The *30/30 Project* is a collection of portraits painted by acclaimed Australian artist **Vincent Fantauzzo**. In an effort that demonstrates both artistic stamina and endurance, **Fantauzzo** painted 30 Australians, from different walks of life, in 30 days. The portrait subjects are truly high achievers in varying fields such as the arts, science, entertainment, politics, philanthropy and sport. Portraits include The Hon Bob Hawke AC, film director Baz Luhrman, former Lord Mayor of Melbourne Ron Walker AC CBE and actress Asher Keddie.

Fantauzzo is best known for his Archibald Prize portrait of partner Asher Keddie in 2013 and of the late Heath Ledger in 2008 – both winners of the *People's Choice Award*.

WWV also interviewed a selection of the portrait subjects about what makes a great city and society. A montage of these in-depth interviews, which includes insights from Australian research biologist **Sir Gus Nossal AC CBE**; Nobel Laureate **Professor Brian Schmidt**; and outgoing Vice-Chancellor and President of Monash University **Professor Ed Byrne AO**, will be screened at the exhibition and available to view in full online at www.wondermentwalk.org.au

Dr Stuart Kohlhausen's Canberra installation *NKRYPT* is a demonstration of engineering, art and the mathematics of encryption. *NKRYPT*, usually located at Questacon (The National Science & Technology Centre), was an early interaction of Wonderment Walk in the areas of art and science. The sculptural puzzle contains many separate codes and ciphers, laser cut into eight stainless steel poles.

WWV provided seed funding for the **NKRYPT** project; the original design drawings and plans of **NKRYPT** will be featured in the Wonderment Walk Victoria Launch Exhibition. It is hoped that the designers of **NKRYPT** will collaborate with Wonderment Walk for the establishment of a similar wonderment in Melbourne.

In addition to the works displayed by more established artists, other works by emerging artists, which are not part of the Wonderment Walk collection, will also be on display at the exhibition.

Over the next few months **WWV** will continue to work closely with the Melbourne City Council, various government departments and a number of universities in Melbourne to determine the location of the initial Wonderment Walk installations.

*"We hope that the range of locations for our first **Wonderment Walk** will run the length from the Melbourne arts district, including parks and gardens, up towards the cultural and academic areas. In addition, we have also commenced arrangements for a second wonderment which we hope will be installed later in the year.*

*"**Wonderment Walk Victoria** has a long-term vision. This is not just a project for today but for our children and grandchildren," concluded Mr Kutner.*

Event Details:

Invitation Only Launch Event

6-8:30pm, Wednesday 12 February, 2014

Yarra Gallery, Federation Square

Speakers include: The Right Honourable Lord Mayor of Melbourne Robert Doyle and the Honourable Heidi Victoria, Minister for the Arts.

Wonderment Walk Exhibition

11am-7pm, 3-28 February, 2014

Yarra Gallery, Federation Square

Free entry

Floor Talk – Melbourne: A Knowledge City

6-8pm, Wednesday 19 February, 2014

Yarra Gallery, Federation Square

Free

Speakers include:

- Moderator: **Eddie Kutner**, Chair, Wonderment Walk Victoria
- **Dr. Jackie Watts**, Councillor, City of Melbourne
- **Vincent Fantauzzo**, Renowned Australian artist
- **Mikala Tai**, Creative Director, Supergraph: Contemporary Graphic Art Fair

Further Information

@wondermentwalk

Web: www.wondermentwalk.org.au

Facebook: facebook.com/WondermentWalk

Twitter: twitter.com/WondermentWalk

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES –

PRUE BASSETT PUBLICITY

Sally Giam - 0433 988 751 | pbpmedia@netspace.net.au

Prue Bassett - 0419 559 040 | prue@netspace.net.au