

MARCH 9 2018

Highlights of the Sydney Biennale

Linda Morris

1. Marco Fusinato's sound installation *Constellations, 2015/2018* invites visitors to pick up a baseball bat and bash what looks like a plain white gallery wall. Inside the **Carriageworks'** installation are 16 microphones connected to a concert size amplifier that will send 120 decibels reverberating through the space. One strike only per visitor.

2. Ai Weiwei's *Law of the Journey, 2017*, at **Cockatoo Island** is an imposing installation featuring a 60-metre-long boat crowded with hundreds of anonymous refugees. Both the boat and the figures are inflatable, made from black rubber and fabricated in China in a factory that also manufactures the vessels used by refugees attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea.



Ai Wei Wei's Law of the Journey. Photo: Supplied

3. At the **Museum of Contemporary Art**, Liza Lou's *The Clouds, 2015-18*, comprises a panoramic grid of 600 cloths, each hand-woven with glass beads, created in collaboration with a studio team of Zulu artisans.

4. Sydney ceramicist Yasmin Smith will create a forest of ceramic tree branches in a former timber-drying shed on **Cockatoo Island**, necessitating the operation of a studio with a kiln and its own salt farm.

6. Inspired by an ancient form of Japanese theatre, Japanese filmmaker Akira Takayama invited Sydneysiders to sing songs to their ancestors at a Sydney Town Hall event in January. The result is *The Sydney Kabuki Project*, to be screened at **4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art**, Haymarket.

7. At **Cockatoo Island** Ryan Gander's newly commissioned *Other Places, 2018* features two rooms, the larger of which contains a snow-covered streetscape, recollecting the artist's childhood in an English housing estate with a wall and a video twist in the middle.

8. In Samson Young's newest video work showcased at the **Art Gallery of NSW** the Flora Sinfonie Orchester in Cologne performs Tchaikovsky's 5th Symphony without projecting a single musical note. Instead, video shows the sounds produced by the physical actions of performance – the musicians' focused breath, the turning of pages, or the clicking of the instruments' keys.

9. At **Artspace** Tiffany Chung's large-scale embroidered textile maps the escape routes and migration trajectories of Vietnamese refugees 1975-1996, alongside a series of watercolour paintings featuring scenes of layered archival photographs.

10. Abraham Cruzvillegas' sculptures, *Reconstruction I: The Five Enemies, 2018*, and *Reconstruction II: The Five Enemies, 2018*, have been improvised from discarded objects and building materials left over from events and restoration projects on **Cockatoo Island** and are inspired by the writings of Chinese philosopher and Taoist sage Chuang Tzu.

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