

Patricia Piccinini: RELATIVITY

Patricia Piccinini is one of Australia's most acclaimed contemporary artists whose startling sculptures examine the connections between science and nature, art and the environment. Audiences are drawn to Piccinini's sculptures because they appear so real, yet they are creatures of the artist's imagination developed to consider a strange new world of artificial or mutant beings derived from experimental biotechnology.

Created using a combination of materials such as silicone, fibreglass and human hair, Piccinini's sculptures are familiar yet fantastical in their depiction of possible future species and their interaction with human beings. Often confronting yet endearingly vulnerable, her sculptures give form to her fascination with the relationship between the 'natural' and the 'artificial' while asserting the power of social relationships, love and communication. Piccinini's work is fundamentally about the human condition, despite the quasi-human appearance of her sculptures. The artist sees them as 'beautiful rather than grotesque, miraculous rather than freakish'.

Patricia Piccinini: RELATIVITY is the first major survey of the artist's sculptural works in Western Australia. It includes over 20 significant projects and a new installation which has been created for the Gallery's concourse. *Aloft 2010* responds to the architectural environment of the Gallery. Piccinini represented Australia at the 50th Venice Biennale in 2003 and has had solo exhibitions in Japan, the United States, Peru and Spain and at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, the National Gallery of Victoria and the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery.

Stefano Carboni, Director of the Art Gallery of Western Australia, said, "We are very pleased that Patricia Piccinini is making a new, site-specific sculpture for the Gallery's concourse. It will bring people's attention to the exhibition as soon as they enter the Gallery, and open it up to many people who might not normally view Australian contemporary art. Patricia's work has proved to be very popular with audiences in other cities in Australia, and I'm sure that it will capture the Western Australian public's imagination in a similar way."

Saturday 1 May at 2pm

Artist Talk and Interview

Join Patricia Piccinini in conversation with Juliana Engberg, Director of the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, discussing the *RELATIVITY* exhibition.

Do not miss this unique and thought-provoking insight. *Free event, no booking required.*

On display at the Art Gallery of Western Australia Saturday 1 May – Sunday 22 August 2010



Patricia Piccinini

The Long Awaited 2008 (detail)

silicone, fibreglass, human hair, plywood, leather, clothing
92 x 152 x 80cm

Detached Cultural Organisation, Hobart

Photo: Graham Baring

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES CONTACT:

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