



People Like Us

A National Exhibitions Touring Support Australia exhibition developed by UNSW Galleries and toured by Museums & Galleries of NSW, 18 June to 21 August 2016

Opening: Friday 17 June (by invitation only)

Geelong Gallery, in partnership with Museums & Galleries of NSW (MGNSW), is delighted to present ***People Like Us***, a major exhibition exploring the interrelationship between art, technology and human experience. On display from June to August, ***People Like Us*** considers the capacity new media and technologies offer for humans to experiment with ideas and interpret information in the 21st century. The works use moving image, interactive digital technologies, data visualisation, sound and music to explore connections between our inner selves, each other and our environments.

‘Reflecting our innovative use of new media, contemporary artists have in turn embraced technology more than any previous generation of artists, as they explore evolving attitudes and articulations of the human experience. These new technologies are shaping a new version of the human story, and this area is a fascinating platform for discussion on our world today,’ says exhibition Curator and UNSW Galleries Director, **Felicity Fenner**.

Interactivity plays a key part in this exhibition with a wide variety of opportunities for visitors to engage with the artworks: **George Poonkhin Khut’s** *Brighthearts* app uses your real-time bio feed data in heart rate controlled images and sound; **John McGhee’s** digital animations invite visitors to take the wheel on a wild ride through human blood vessels; while **Volker Kuchelmeister and Laura Fisher’s** *Veloscape* tracks participants’ emotional responses as they take a virtual bicycle tour of Sydney inside the gallery space.

People Like Us also presents a number of Australian premiere works by high profile international artists. This includes **Michael Nyman’s** poignant sound work, a symphony commissioned by the 2014 Liverpool Biennale to mark the 25th anniversary of the Hillsborough stadium collapse. The people’s names sung in *Symphony No. 11: Hillsborough Memorial* are not those of celebrity players, but those of 96 everyday sports fans who lost their lives attending a Saturday afternoon football match. They are ordinary people rendered extraordinary by art.

Other Australian premiere artworks by international artists include Italian video artist **Yuri Ancarani's** *Da Vinci*, an acclaimed, uncanny portrayal of a robotic surgical procedure that confounded visitors to the Venice Biennale. As well, award-winning Luxembourg artist **Su-Mei Tse's** aurally immersive purring cat portraits confirm why cats are today the most searched for creature on the Internet.

Well-known **Australian artists** include Aboriginal-Chinese artist **Jason Wing** whose sound work tells a moving story about the Stolen Generations. **Claire Healy & Sean Cordeiro's** first ever video work celebrates our love of the car as it documents a mechanic patiently dismantling and rebuilding a racing car before our eyes. **Angelica Mesiti's** *Rapture (silent anthem)* dramatically describes without sound the trance-like euphoric state of music festival fans. **Joan Ross** animates the colonisation of Australia in a witty post-colonial narrative that combines art history and building construction noise. **Daniel Crooks** uses his acclaimed time-splice technique to observe the activities of strangers in a typical Melbourne laneway as they wander the narrow pockets, never quite touching, oblivious to the events around them.

'The Geelong Gallery is delighted to present this new media exhibition in partnership with MGNSW. We have no doubt our visitors will enjoy the diverse works of these 13 Australian and international artists that engage new technologies to explore human experience, and we look forward to presenting this touring exhibition, fittingly, in our new temporary exhibition space', says Geelong Gallery incoming director **Jason Smith**.

People Like Us is accompanied by a 100 page colour catalogue with eight texts by Australian and international writers including curator **Felicity Fenner, Hesse McGraw (US) and Michael Nyman (UK)**.

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The National Touring Initiative is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its principal arts funding body, and by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.

Media Contact

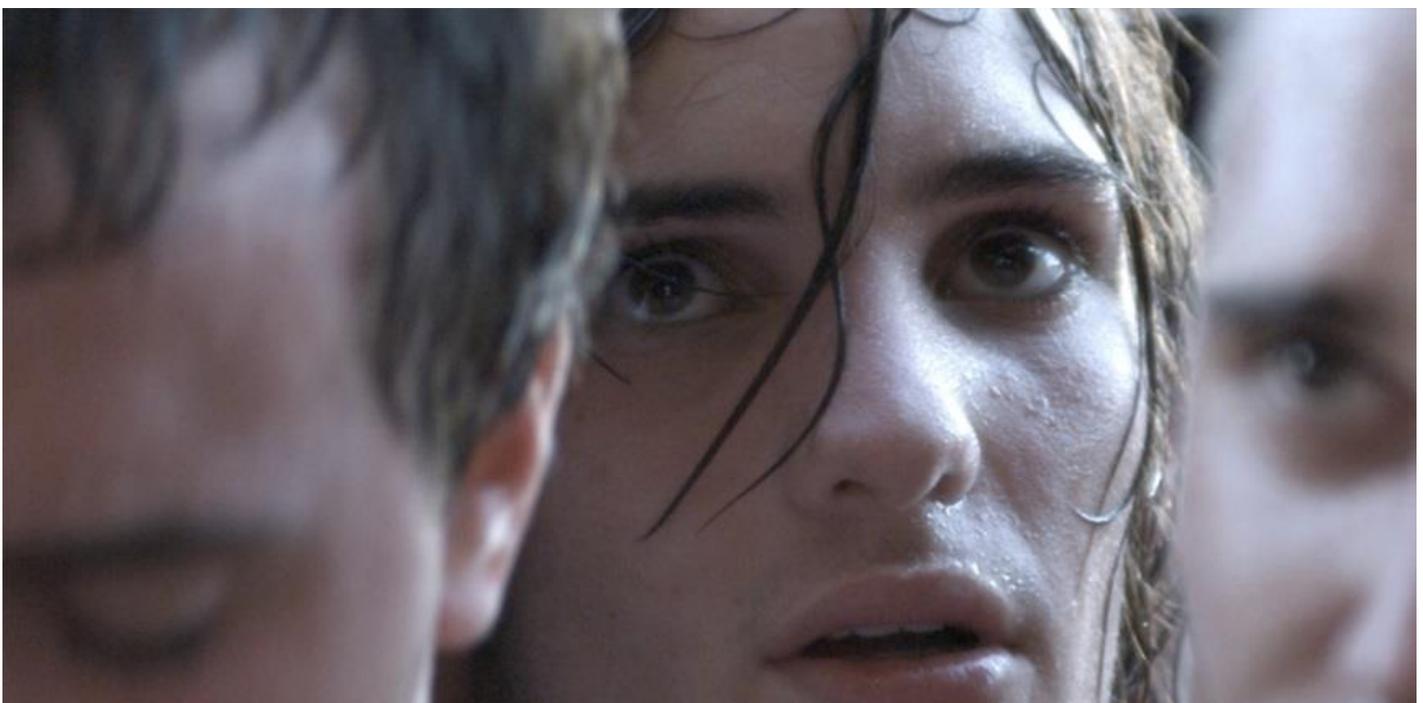
For further information or to request images, contact:

Miranda Brown

Miranda Brown Publicity

P: 03 9419 0931

E: miranda@mbpublicity.com.au



Page 1 top left: George Poonkhin Khut, *BrightHearts* app, 2013, heart rate controlled relaxation training app for iOS devices; iPads. Courtesy Sensorium Health (George Khut and Jason McDermott). Page 1 top centre: Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro, *The Drag*, 2015; 2-channel video, colour, sound, 28 minutes. Courtesy Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney. Page 1 top right: Yuri Ancarani, *Da Vinci*, 2012, single-channel video, colour, sound, 25 minutes. Courtesy the artist and Galleria Zero, Milan. Page 2 bottom: Angelica Mesiti, *Rapture (silent anthem)*, 2009, single-channel video, colour, 10 minutes, 10 seconds. Courtesy the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery.

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