

SOFT SCULPTURE

24 April – 12 July 2009 | Exhibition Galleries

nga.gov.au/softsculpture

Soft sculpture looks at the ways artists use unconventional materials to challenge the nature of sculpture. Works are made from cloth, rope, paper, hair, leather, rubber or vinyl. The objects are fluffy, squishy or bent. They droop, ooze or splash. They surround, overwhelm or astonish—and make us laugh.

Drawn mainly from the National Gallery of Australia's collection, the exhibition includes sculptures and installations by American and European artists Eva Hesse, Robert Morris, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Rauschenberg, Joseph Beuys and Annette Messager as well as works by Australian artists such as Mikala Dwyer, David Jenz and Ricky Swallow.

The National Gallery of Australia is hosting a vibrant program of events associated with *Soft sculpture* and *Reinventions: sculpture + assemblage* as part of a season of sculpture at the Gallery.

Woodwinds

Saturday 2 May 2.00–3.30 pm

The woodwind duo of **Christopher Young** and **Dushan Mitrovic** use their intuition and experience to create a contemporary sound. Free | Exhibition Galleries

Artist's talk

Tuesday 5 May 12.45 pm

Artist **Peter Vandermark** talks about his works *Fattish I* 1997, *Fattish VI* 1997 and *Fattish VII* 1998 in the exhibition *Soft sculpture*. Free | Exhibition Galleries

Young members evening

members ■

Thursday 7 May 5.30 pm

Lisa McDonald gives a youthful perspective on selected works in the exhibition. The *Soft sculpture* bus will then ferry guests to the Parlour Wine Room for drinks and funky tunes by The Lethals. \$20; \$10 members | bookings essential | Exhibition Galleries and Parlour Wine Room at NewActon

Visionaire ... an artists' playground

Tuesday 12 May 12.45 pm

Helen Hyland, Bibliographic Reference Librarian, introduces the Research Library's collection of *Visionaire*, a fashion and art publication that is magazine, art object, toy and accessory. Free | Small Theatre

Movie night: Attack of the killer tomatoes!

members ■

35 mm, 1978, PG, 87 mins

Tuesday 12 May 5.00–7.30 pm

Be inspired by the latent energy in otherwise harmless objects and enjoy a tour of *Soft sculpture*, followed by light refreshments and a screening of *Attack of the killer tomatoes!* Film supplied by the National Film and Sound Archive.

\$10; \$5 members | bookings essential | Exhibition Galleries and James O Fairfax Theatre

Padded cells

Saturday 16 May 10.30 am – 4.00 pm

Join artist and educator **Roy Marchant** for a workshop on material and metaphor in *Soft sculpture*. Participants to provide their own lunch.

\$20; \$15 members (includes materials) | bookings essential | Small Theatre (meet in Gallery foyer)

Special assisted tour

Saturday 16 May 10.30 am

Tour and viewing for people with disabilities, led by voluntary guides. Free | book now (02) 6240 6519 | meet in Gallery foyer

Breathe in, breathe out

Tuesday 19 May 12.45 pm

Dr Christopher Chapman, Curator, National Portrait Gallery, discusses selected works and their relationship to the human body. Free | Exhibition Galleries

Up skirt: the conservation of Icebag—scale B

Thursday 28 May 12.45 pm

Roy Marchant, artist and object conservator, discusses his recent conservation work on Claes Oldenburg's *Icebag—scale B* 1971. Free | Small Theatre

Private viewing for carers

Saturday 30 May 10.30 am

Tour and viewing for carers, led by voluntary guides in collaboration with Carers ACT.

Free | bookings essential (02) 6296 9900 | meet in Gallery foyer

Autumn art club III

members ■

Sunday 31 May 3.00–4.30 pm

Lucina Ward, curator of *Soft sculpture*, gives a focus talk on the work of Eva Hesse, followed by a glass of sparkling wine. \$10; free for members | bookings essential | Exhibition Galleries and Members Lounge

Descriptive tour

Saturday 6 June 2.30 pm

Descriptive and touch tour for blind and sight-impaired visitors with trained voluntary guides.

Free | bookings essential (02) 6240 6519 | Exhibition Galleries (meet in Gallery foyer)

Young members wine tasting

members ■

Saturday 6 June 4.00 pm

Join other young members for an exclusive tour of *Soft sculpture*, followed by a wine tasting with one of the region's finest producers of wine, including the renowned sparkling wines of Gallagher Wines.

\$10; free for members | Exhibition Galleries and Sculpture Garden restaurant

Surrealism and the body

Tuesday 9 June 12.45 pm

Lisa McDonald discusses Marcel Duchamp's *Please touch* 1947, and the influence of Surrealism on representations of the body. Free | Exhibition Galleries

Studio visit

members ■

Saturday 13 June 9.30 am – 3.00 pm

Artist **David Jenz** guides us through his studio and discusses his working process, followed by a light lunch at The Cellar Door, Gallagher's Winery, Murrumbateman.

\$65; \$55 members (includes coach travel and lunch) | bookings essential | meet in NGA car park

The blob

DVD, 1958, M, 86 min

Sunday 14 June 2.00 pm

The blob is a classic American horror–science fiction film in which a creature from out of space terrorises a small community in the United States. Directed by Irvin Yeaworth and starring Steve McQueen.

Free | James O Fairfax Theatre

Joseph Beuys, modern shaman

Tuesday 16 June 12.45 pm

Christine Dixon, Senior Curator, International Painting and Sculpture, discusses Joseph Beuys's *Stripes from the house of the shaman* 1964–72 1980.

Free | Exhibition Galleries

Archives treasure chest

Thursday 18 June 12.45 pm

Jennifer Coombes, Special Collections Archivist, explores the unusual documents and objects in the Research Library's Special Collections: patterns, wool samples, fabric scraps, paper sculptures and more.

Free | Small Theatre

Soft and squishy short-film screening

Sunday 21 June 2.00–3.00 pm

A selection of short films focused on the theme of 'soft' and featuring a range of animation techniques such as claymation and claypainting. Screening includes the Oscar-winning films *Harvie Krumpet* (2003), *Mona Lisa descending a staircase* (1992) and *Closed Mondays* (1974).

Free | James O Fairfax Theatre

Curator's perspective

Tuesday 23 June 12.45 pm

Lucina Ward, curator of *Soft sculpture*, examines the revolutionary changes in sculpture in the 1960s and 1970s, and their impact to the present day.

Free | Exhibition Galleries'

Don't let the bedbugs bite

Thursday 25 June 12.45 pm

Lisa Addison, Preventive Conservation Manager, talks about the pre-emptive pest eradication treatment of various works of art in *Soft sculpture*, and the application of treatments for your home or private collection.

Free | Small Theatre

Sign-interpreted tour

Sunday 28 June 2.30 pm

Auslan sign-interpreted tour introducing the exhibition *Soft sculpture*. Free | bookings essential (02) 6240 6519 | meet in Gallery foyer

Artist talks

Thursday 2 July 12.45 pm

Artist **Nell** discusses her work *The perfect drip* 1999 in the exhibition *Soft sculpture*.

Free | Exhibition Galleries

Fashion parade

members ■

Thursday 2 July 5.00 pm

Swish your way through *Soft sculpture* with voluntary guides. Then marvel at the designs of cutting-edge Australian and New Zealand fashion designers, accompanied by the sounds of local DJ Bucky (Soft Tigers). Followed by light refreshments. Presented in collaboration with the Department of the Exterior.

\$40 members and their guests | bookings essential | Exhibition Galleries and Sculpture Garden restaurant

Sculpture: old and new, soft and hard

Saturday 4 July 2.00–4.00 pm

In this forum, artists, curators, conservators and art historians discuss the radical changes in the way artists have approached sculpture from the 1960s to the present—from innovative techniques and new materials to politics and social change. Topics include assemblage, recycling and poetic licence; inherent vice with reference to ephemeral materials; and the impact of humour, play and images from popular culture.

Free | James O Fairfax Theatre

Squishy sculpture

(ages 9–12)

Wednesday 8 July 10.30 am – 12.30 pm, repeated 2.00–4.00 pm

Join artist **Teffany Theildman** to carve your own sculpture out of foam.

\$20; \$15 members/concession | bookings essential | Small Theatre

KNITTA PLEASE

a festival of events

Sunday 5 July to Sunday 12 July 2009

To celebrate the final week of *Soft sculpture*, the National Gallery of Australia will be holding Knitta Please, a festival of events from 5 to 12 July. Founded in 2005, Knitta Please is a tag crew of knitters who turned their frustration with their half-finished knitting projects into a phenomenon sweeping across the world.

Artist talk

Sunday 5 July 2.00 pm

Magda Sayeg, Knitta Please founder and yarn-bomber, discusses the curious convergence of knitting and graffiti, exploring the social implication of street art in our urban environment.

Free | James O Fairfax Theatre

Yarn-bombing and guerrilla knitting in the Sculpture Garden

Monday 6 July 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Come and watch the transformation of the Gallery's Sculpture Garden with colourful knitted objects as **Magda Sayeg**, founder of Knitta Please, tags everyday items from the urban environment.

Free | Sculpture Garden

Stitching up the NGA

Tuesday 7 July to Sunday 12 July

Come and watch the Gallery be transformed with knitting. Held over four days, **Magda Sayeg**, founder of Knitta Please, and Sydney artist **Denise Litchfield** transform the front entrance and foyer of the Gallery. Knitters are invited to help create squares of knitting for the coverings. For information on how to become involved, please go to nga.gov.au/whatson.

Free | Gallery entrance and foyer

Stitch 'n' bitch

Wednesday 8 July 6.00–8.30 pm

Following on from the London tradition and book of the same name, this event will bring like-minded knitters for a relaxed evening of clicking and conversation.

\$30; \$25 members (includes nibbles and a glass of wine) | Parlour Wine Room, NewActon

Children's knitting workshop

(ages 5+)

Thursday 9 July 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Children are invited to attend a finger-knitting workshop taught by Knitta Please founder **Magda Sayeg**.

Free (materials supplied) | Small Theatre

REINVENTIONS

sculpture + assemblage

16 May – 13 September 2009 | Project Gallery

nga.gov.au/reinventions

Reinventions: sculpture + assemblage includes some of Australia's most significant established artists, such as Rosalie Gascoigne, Robert Klippel and Colin Lanceley, with those of a younger generation like Neil Roberts, Ah Xian, Tim Horn and Ricky Swallow. The earliest work in the show is Lanceley's dynamic assemblage of found materials *Pianist pianist where are you?* 1965, while the most recent is Ricky Swallow's meditation on mortality and love in his sculptural work *Tusk* 2007. What the artists share in common is a fascination with reinvention—with taking old materials or established ideas and finding fresh, distinctive and poetic ways to express them.

SPOOKY ACTION AT A DISTANCE installation–video art at NewActon

24 April – 12 July 2009 | NewActon

www.spookyaction.com.au

To coincide with *Soft sculpture*, Exhibition Partners The apARTments at NewActon is proud to present *Spooky action at a distance*. This significant temporary video art installation draws on elements of two recent high-energy works by London artist Anat Ben-David and Melbourne artist Martin Bell in collaboration with Berlin curator Adi Nachman and Andrew Mac of Citylights Projects in Melbourne. Along with a host of other events, NewActon presents a unique opportunity to combine fine dining, music and art. For more information on events at NewActon, visit www.musicartfood.com.au.