



an ASIX Art Action

13 - 22 April, 2012  
Weave Arts Centre,  
231 Wilson Street,  
North Eveleigh NSW

## ***Play: ASIX Social Changemakers Art Prize 2012***

### **Creative Statement:**

'For me, the fundamental question is to explore the possibility for play. To discover how to produce forms for the presentation of objects, forms for the organization of spaces, that thwart expectations. The main enemy of artistic creativity as well as of political creativity is consensus—that is, inscription within given roles, possibilities, competences.' (Rancière, 2007, p.267)

The world does not value play. Yet everyday we play, mostly without even noticing. We play when we make someone laugh, we play when cook (or burn) food for our friends and we play when our mind drifts on the train to work.

Play is often ignored because it does not have productive outcomes. Play doesn't insist on quantifiable, known actions— on key terms and powerpoints. Play is generous and open, it wants to take what we already have and reimagine it into something beautiful and impossible. When we see children playing together, being non-productive, we know it is still vitally important. Yet as we grow up this ability to think, feel and imagine just for the sake of it is hard to justify. How can we justify the funny, the absurd the emotional and the inner world? How can we not? When you think of the key moments in your life that have inspired you, changed you... how many of those were planned? How many of those came from workshops or books entitled "how to change your life?" These moments of inspiration come from the unexpected, from a chance conversation, a drifting song from a busker, from getting lost in an unfamiliar place.

The role of play and of culture is to liberate people from definite predetermined rules and allow us to experience the unexpected and imagine the ordinary as extraordinary. We have the increasing pressure to make every moment count, to be able to justify our every action, yet what if we allowed ourselves the chance to play? What change could we see, what inspiration might we find in the material all around us?

The exhibition aims to generate a space where people are allowed the time to play. Instead of using established professional artists we are appealing to people who have been involved in change making, either professionally or in their own lives and communities. We are asking them to produce "art" as a product of playing around key themes which inform the Australian Social Changemakers' Festival. We are hoping in such a space works will be generated that don't provide a list of answers but touch us in ways we can't define. Works that may, for even the slightest moment, break through language, categories and numbers and inspire us, lighting that irrational passion which drives for change.

**Method:**

The exhibition will be organised by the Australian Social Innovation eXchange (ASIX) as part of its Australian Social Changemakers' Festival in April 2012 and held at Weave Arts Centre in the CarriageWorks precinct.

The participants will be selected from or through organizations and communities connected to social innovation. They will not be established professional artists, but people interested in exploring the themes of the festival in a creative manner. They will be given a brief and details of the project, as well as ideas and methods to help them create. They will be under the guidance of Dr Tim Gregory, curator of the project, who will offer assistance and workshops to help with the development of the work. The exhibition will act as the foundation of the festival and provide inspiration as well as a creative backdrop to the various festival activities.

**ASIX Art Mission Statement**

ASIX Art aims to facilitate creative expression from passionate changemakers. ASIX Art believes in the unique ability of art to touch and inspire us and to challenge the way we see the world. ASIX Art advocates creative expression as integral to effecting permanent and real change.



an ASIX Art Action

13 - 22 April, 2012  
Weave Arts Centre,  
231 Wilson Street,  
North Eveleigh NSW

## ***Play: ASIX Social Changemakers Art Prize 2012*** **Exhibition Brief**

### **Target Group:**

We are interested in receiving applications from creative and passionate change makers. We are not looking for established professional artists. Nor do applicants have to be skilled in any art form. We encourage people who are creative yet not traditionally trained artists to apply. The selection process will be based on the concept of the artwork and not the skill of the applicants. As such we envisage the predominate use of found objects, video/audio/new media, conceptually based and non-traditional materials.

We are encouraging applications from groups, or from collaborative partnerships between organizations and clients.

We are looking for non-didactic art. The exhibition is not a forum for the promotion of particular organizations or institutions (logos will not be allowed as part of the artwork, however modest logos will be permitted near the artwork by sponsor organizations who have supported specific artworks). We are looking for art that is open and playful, ambiguous and engaging. Work that takes risks, that is challenging or provocative is also encouraged.

The work must be connected to the creative statement and revolve around the notion of "play." Play can be explored in any manner, but should be linked to the major themes of the Social Changemakers' Festival.

### **Festival Themes**

- Poverty and wealth – the increasing divide
- Living simply, living lightly on the earth
- The power of collective action – 2012 is the International Year of Co-operatives
- Social inclusion and exclusion
- Technology as an enabler of change
- Aging, death & dying

- Fixing our health system
- Social entrepreneurship
- Employment, unemployment and the changing nature of work
- Faith as a driver of change-making
- The loss of trust in public institutions and democracy to solve the emerging problems we face – how do we fix our institutions?
- The issue of violence as a response to family, community and global problems
- The changing nature of families and family
- Change often comes from the margins
- The increasing power of business to shape political and individual decisions
- The power of books and ideas to shape our thinking and lives
- Journey Inward/Journey Outward – social change goes hand in hand with personal change
- The power of the crowd - for good or ill
- Learning from failure
- Passion and inspiration, where does it come from and can we enable it
- Learning from others - the state of multiculturalism in Australia
- Rethinking thinking - how can we 'think' differently
- Creativity, emotion and affect- the importance of what we can't define
- Rhizomatic communities- the possibilities of user produced and run projects

**Assistance:**

1. A \$3000 acquisitive prize for the winner judged by a panel.
2. A workshop for selected artists will be held at the Weave Arts Centre on Monday, 27 February from 3-5pm.
3. Selected artists who require assistance will have access of up to \$200 to complete the work. The funds will be released to social innovation organizations for the use by the artist(s).
4. Selected artists will have access to the Weave Arts Centre at set times in March to develop their work.
5. Examples and ideas on how to get started will be made available online from 8 January at [www.asix.org.au](http://www.asix.org.au)
6. To discuss your interest in participating in the exhibition or to clarify any questions please email Dr Tim Gregory – [tim.gregory@asix.org.au](mailto:tim.gregory@asix.org.au)

**Application process:**

1. Applications are due on 15 February. They must be emailed or submitted online. Each application must contain the following:
  - Completed entry from (available online [www.asix.org.au](http://www.asix.org.au)) including an up to 150 word artist statement explaining what is the social change issue that your art is addressing and how you are going to translate this into a cross media form (eg. a sculpture with audio mpg3 files, video on a digital photo frame with found objects).
  - Up to 5 images (jpeg) or 1 video (linked to vimeo or youtube). The work does not have to be completed, but a few sketches or experiments can be shown.
2. Applicants will be informed if they have been selected for the exhibition by 20 February 2012.

3. The works are to be delivered by the artist to Weave Arts Center on Tuesday and Wednesday 10-11 April. Works must be taken by the artists from Weave Arts Centre on Monday 23 April if they have not won the acquisitive prize or been sold to a buyer.
4. The works will be judged by a panel and the winner will be announced on the opening of the exhibition, Friday 13 April.

**Rules:**

1. Works must be cross-media. They must contain a variety of media and must be three-dimensional. All works must be free standing and fit within a 1.2m x 1.2m x 1.800m (width, depth, height) box, max 50kg. All media will be considered (video, performance, interactive, web based etc). Works which require power must come with all the appropriate extension cords and equipment necessary.
2. Artist must install their work themselves on Tuesday and/or Wednesday, 10 and 11 April 2012. **Please note: the Weave Arts Centre is located up 2 flights of stairs with no lift access. You will need to be able to disassemble and assemble the work on site. Whole works may not be able to fit or be lifted up the stairs. Please also keep the weight of the works to a minimum.**
3. The curator is in charge of the placement and lighting of the works. The curator is also entitled to make minor changes to the works to maintain a consistency across the exhibition.
4. The curator has the right to not show a work if the work varies from the original proposal or does not fit with the other works on display.
5. The work which wins the acquisitive prize becomes the property of ASIX. The attached conditions of entry document details issues of ownership, copyright etc.