

biennaleofsydney

Education Program – Welcome Pack

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country, in particular the Bidjigal and Gadigal people on whose land UNSW Galleries is located, and the Gadigal and Wangal people on whose land the Biennale of Sydney is located.

We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Exhibition Text

The singular life-giving body that is the sun, like the world it shines light upon, has been known under thousands of different words in as many languages. Each name carries a different cultural viewpoint, and many do not rely on a vision of a single sun. The image of ‘ten thousand suns’ evokes a scorching world, both in cosmological visions and in our present moment of climate emergency and of a world ablaze.

In this vein, the 24th Biennale of Sydney presents its largest display in this venue, open to the public for the first time in more than a hundred years, White Bay Power Station. Located on the lands of the Wangal people, this gigantic empty shell, where mountains of coal were brought and burnt, is a monument to the absurd effort that has been needed to power the settler colony, and to put in motion both its real and symbolic machinery.

Yet Ten Thousand Suns also conveys the joy of cultural multiplicities affirmed, First Nations understandings of the cosmos brought to the fore, and carnivals as forms of resistance rallying against colonial oppression and dehumanisation. Ten Thousand Suns kindles through these different layers, acknowledging the deep crises derived from rampant exploitation while refusing to concede to an apocalyptic vision of the future. This politics of doom can be seen as attempts by the same forces to render impossible the overcoming of the multiple crises that they themselves have produced.

And yet the sun doesn’t stop shining. It doesn’t stop when empires wither and want to take down the light of day with them. It didn’t even stop in horror when places and continents were broken by these empires, invaded and settled. It did not stop when the HIV/AIDS pandemic was left to run through bodies, communities, and dreams. The suns shone on. They shed light below where broken pieces were being put together. Remembering what was forgotten, forbidden, and creating anew. Mourning and returning to life. In strength and exuberance. In carnivals of rays and radiance. In lineages of resistance and collective power. In Mardi Gras. Under ten thousand suns dancing gently like a morning.

Ten Thousand Suns
24th Biennale of Sydney

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“It was with great enthusiasm I accepted a new role as the inaugural Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain First Nations Curatorial Fellow. This continues a trajectory for me in bringing visibility to the incredible art and culture of global Indigenous voices, supporting them at the forefront of the Biennale. Through this Curatorial Fellowship I am honoured to work alongside the commissioned artists and expand the development of strong curatorial perimeters with First Nations peoples. The partnership between the Biennale of Sydney and the Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain will bring outstanding commissions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and curatorial excellence to the rest of the world.”

Tony Albert
Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain
First Nations Curatorial Fellow

White Bay Power Station

The NSW State Heritage-listed White Bay Power Station will soon bring new energy to Sydney and Australia as it opens its doors to the public for the 2024 Biennale of Sydney. Placemaking NSW has undertaken extensive remediation and conservation works to repurpose the site as an arts, cultural and community hub. White Bay Power Station will become a focal point for the transformation of the Bays West precinct into a connected and vibrant new area for living, working and recreation.

White Bay is part of the Balmain Peninsula in the Inner West of Sydney and is one of the most recognized landmarks in the precinct and includes surrounding lands to the White Bay foreshore. White Bay Power Station was constructed between 1912 and 1917 to power the rail network and is now over 100 years old. The power station is exceptionally significant as the only one retaining machinery and equipment from before the 1950s, demonstrating the process of electricity production and its use throughout Sydney’s extensive rail network.

The stretch of Country now known as Bays West has been known for millennia as Gari Gurad/Nura (Saltwater Country) and Nattai Gurad/Nura (Freshwater Country). This Country is celebrated for vast expanses of garaban (rock and sandstone) which in some places provides shelter, gibbaragunya (stone/cave shelters), and in other places creates yiningmah (steep cliffs).

Conditions of Entry

First Nations people are respectfully advised that this exhibition includes works, names, voices, and images of deceased people. This includes cultural practices and artistic intellectual property of a sensitive nature.

By entering the exhibition, you consent to interview(s), photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their use for promotional, or any other purpose by Biennale of Sydney. Images, photos and/or videos may be used to promote similar Biennale of Sydney events in the future and highlight the event.

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This exhibition includes explicit content such as images and text that may be confronting, including stylised images of genitalia and course language.

White Bay Power Station is a remediated space. Please be mindful of uneven ground, low clearances and unfinished surfaces. Please do not enter areas that are restricted.

- No external alcoholic beverages to be brought into the venue.
- No smoking including the use of e-cigarettes
- No illegal or illicit substances.
- No bicycles, scooters, skateboards, or skates.
- No drones or other remote-controlled devices.
- Patrons are responsible for their own personal possessions and must not leave bags or possessions unattended at any time.
- Unauthorized photography or filming is prohibited

For the safety, comfort and enjoyment of all Patrons, we reserve the right to refuse entry to, or remove from the venue, any person(s):

- deemed to be intoxicated and/or disorderly.
- who displays discriminatory, threatening or harassing behaviour towards any other person.
- who purchases an event ticket from any unauthorised source, including a ticket scalper.

Arrival Times

For our Education Programs we request that you arrive at the site **at least 30 minutes before** your scheduled program. It is imperative that you arrive on time so that we can keep to schedule. There are multiple Education Programs taking place across the day and we want to ensure everyone's programs can start on time.

If you are running late, please call **Michael (0412 5045 837)** or **Matt (0431 524 343)** to let us know.

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Site Map



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Key Locations at White Bay Power Station

Entering the site via private charter

Heading north along Robert St (down the hill), your vehicle will turn right into the White Bay Power Station's driveway and through the main gates. Continuing to veer right, your vehicle may stop outside the Boiler House entry for your passengers to alight. Once all passengers have disembarked, the vehicle can continue along the driveway and exit back onto Robert St. At the conclusion of your visit, your vehicle can enter the site the same way.

Please Note: there is no parking on site.

Entering the site via public transport

The nearest bus stop is on Robert St, across the road from the site. This bus stop is serviced by the **441 & 442** bus routes. If you are travelling by train, you can alight at Town Hall Station and catch either of these buses from the QVB Bus Stand B on York St.

These buses stop on the White Bay Power Station side of Robert St when heading towards the CBD.

There is another bus stop on Victoria St, opposite Robert St, that is serviced by bus routes 433, 500N, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, and 507.

There is also a special Event Bus that has been created specifically for the site. This bus goes directly between QVB and the White Bay Power Station. This bus is number **443** and will have "White Bay Power Station" on the top of the bus.

The area is also serviced by the Light Rail L1, with Rozelle Bay being the nearest stop. We do not recommend this route as it requires you to walk through high traffic areas.

Please Note: The Rozelle Parklands are currently closed, while asbestos is being removed. This is another reason we do not recommend arriving via the Light Rail.

Info Hub

Near the entry to the Boiler House is the Info Hub. This would be a great place to check in with our team upon arrival. Our front of house and ticketing teams will be there to greet you. This is where our educators will greet you as well.

Please Note: The map has the Info Hub listed in the wrong location. It is just to the left of the entrance to the Boiler House, rather than to the right of the Turbine Hall. It will be clear when you arrive.

Programming Hub

The Programming Hub is on the first floor of the Turbine Hall, and the south-western end of the building. If you have booked in for an Education Workshop, this is where the workshop will take place.

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Amenities

The bathrooms are in the courtyard space, just south-west of the Boiler House. There are accessible bathrooms here as well.

There is also a water refill station here for water bottles.

Lift

The lift is in the centre of the building and provides access to each publicly accessible floor of the building.

Lunch breaks

There are tables and chairs outside of the White Bay Power Station, nearby to the Info Hub. These have umbrellas for weather protection. We recommend sitting here for you and your students to take their lunch.

In the instance of inclement weather, we will find a suitable alternative for you.

Storage for bags

We strongly encourage you and your students to bring as little to the site as possible. If students aren't able to leave their belongings on the bus, we request that they bring only what they need (i.e. a water bottle, lunch, and sun protection in a small bag that they can carry with them).