

about art of **DISSSENT**

A national conference for artists and community activists working at the frontier of social and cultural change. The program will explore the dilemmas and ethics of contemporary art practice

created from artists' deep engagement with communities in diverse social contexts. Passion and politics are the driving forces in a program that will attempt to go beyond the accepted jargon of 'industry models', 'marketing strategies' and 'sponsor needs' to explore a brave new territory where labels such as 'community' versus 'mainstream' are irrelevant. If you want to explore the hard issues of cultural expression outside the safe haven of traditional arts definitions, this is the conference for you. We begin with a symposium at the Adelaide Festival and reconvene for a three day conference in October at the Melbourne Festival.



THEMES

Social Change Movements

- > How effective are cultural tools in working for social change?
- > Who owns culture?
- > For art's sake, what is community?
- > Joining the dots—the place of the Indigenous in art and culture
- > What relevance do the arts have in social change?
- > When ethnic dancing is subversive—re-evaluating multicultural arts
- > Popular and elite, authentic and excellent—measuring the measures of artistic practice

Land, Environment and Sustainability

- > Indigenous arts, land and sustainability
- > Can the arts change our relationship to land and identity?
- > Art of and for the planet
- > Creating alliances between cultural and environment movements
- > Sustainable social and cultural change—who will be driving it?

The Art of gLoCalisation

- > Challenging the global locality
- > National culture in a time of subtle (and not so subtle) xenophobia
- > Creating and subverting popular culture
- > Can culture be democratised?
- > Multicultural arts—beyond spaghetti and polka

New Media and Cultural Change

- > The work of art in the age of mechanical reproduction
- > New Indigenous media
- > A multicultural superhighway—new channels, diasporic audiences
- > Virtual spaces—just how much space?
- > Online communities, open source cultures, hacker aesthetics
- > Old media and new—how to develop challenging, relevant content?
- > The cultural dimension of independent media



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- > Decision makers in the fields of culture, community capacity building and community development;
- > Community representatives working with change;
- > Artists;
- > Cultural development workers;
- > Social activists;
- > Community Organisations;
- > Local government cultural and/or community services officers;
- > Academics covering contemporary politics, cultural and public policy, social capital and community development;
- > People passionate about social change and the direction of Australian society.

SYMPOSIUM ADELAIDE FESTIVAL 2002

Adelaide Masonic Centre, North Terrace
8-9 March 2002

Anne Dunn will facilitate the program which will be a combination of panel presentations, small group discussions and interactive debate.

The Art of Dissent: Can the arts actually change anything?

Friday 8th March, 10am - 12:30pm

- > What is the relationship between arts and social change movements?
- > What are the inherent challenges for artists and communities in this relationship?
- > Can the arts change anything? Should they have to?

Confronting Globalisation: From domination to liberation

Friday 8th March, 2pm - 4:30pm

- > How do we transform threats into opportunities?
- > What can be learned from liberation movements in developing countries?
- > Is monoculturalism an inevitable result of globalisation?

Whose Festival? - Can a flagship arts festival embrace community cultural development?

Saturday 9th March, 10am - 12:30pm

- > Who owns a flagship arts festival and whose interests should it serve?
- > Have Australian flagship arts festivals embraced community cultural development, and what did they deliver?
- > What did the 2002 Adelaide Festival deliver?
- > Do we need a new generation of festival programmers and where would we find them?

CONFERENCE MELBOURNE FESTIVAL 2002

Melbourne Storey Hall, RMIT University
14-16 October 2002 www.ArtOfDissent.com

ADELAIDE FESTIVAL 2002



1 - 10 March 2002

The Adelaide Festival 2002 brings together cultures from around the world, all of them evolving and emerging anew. What you will experience as we welcome you to the Adelaide Festival 2002 is the result of a journey that Peter Sellars and the ten Associate Directors began in 2000, beginning with a vision of cultural experiences that would move you to think differently; to participate, to respond, and act to bring about a realisation that this was your journey as well. Together we have explored and shaped this vision around ideas rather than artform and developed a web of meaning where themes, projects and processes are intertwined and dialogue is encouraged.

We invite you to complete the journey with us, be open to new ways of seeing, of hearing, of meeting people, of experiencing the Adelaide Festival.

www.adelaidefestival.org.au

MELBOURNE FESTIVAL 2002



17 October - 2 November 2002

The Melbourne Festival is Australia's premier annual celebration of the arts and has an outstanding reputation for presenting unique international and Australian attractions in the fields of dance, theatre, music, opera, visual arts, free and outdoor events over seventeen days each October.

The Artistic Director of the 2002 and 2003 Festivals is one of Australia's most respected and active arts practitioners, Robyn Archer. The Festival's General Manager is Mary-Ellen King.

The 2002 Melbourne Festival program will be announced in early August.

www.melbournfestival.com.au

