



MEDIA RELEASE

FOUNTAIN COURT EXHIBITIONS AT PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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31 May 2023

'Objects from the future' arrive at NSW Parliament House, putting *Our Shared Futures* on display

Ever wondered what life might look like in 2050 or beyond? Imagined futures come to life at NSW Parliament House this month, with exhibition *Museum of Futures: Our Shared Futures*, on display until 29 June.

Its first full showing in Australia, the exhibition poses the curious question of "artwork or artefact?", inviting visitors to explore sculptures, objects and artworks depicting stories and events from possible futures. Visitors are also encouraged to help shape futures to come, placing their hopes and visions for the coming years into the exhibition's ideas box. These contributions will inspire a special new object to be unveiled at the end of the exhibition's run at Parliament, and form part of forthcoming Museum of Futures exhibitions.

"Museum of Futures is an international-award-winning exhibition with a difference," says co-curator and futures researcher Mel Rumble. "It utilises the power of art by combining collaborative foresight with the creative arts to create tangible experiences of the future, and allows communities to be part of shaping futures."

Presented as a collective, the exhibition is actually four unique exhibitions, including the main artwork collection on display, *Museum of Futures: Pandemic Pivots* – made in collaboration between 10 communities and 11 artists during COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns.

"In these uncertain times after catastrophic bushfires and a global pandemic, I think it can be really hard to see a positive future, but our communities have done just that. This exhibition is a celebration of hope and how if we can imagine positive futures, we can also create them," says co-curator and experiential futurist Claire Marshall.

In addition to *Pandemic Pivots*, premiering at Parliament House is expansive new work *Yadingji*, created by First Nations artists Michael Robinson and Nicole Smede. *Yadingji* explores time from a First Nations perspective.

"Deep appreciation for time ripples through the spiral of *Yadingji*. All times vibrate at once, and the present moment is shaped by the lineal notion of what has come before and what will be," says Nicole.

Our Shared Futures also brings in pieces from *Museum of Futures: Food for Thought*, delving into 'future histories' of food systems, and *Museum of Futures: The Future of Work*, inspired by office workers' visions for the future of cities.

The whole exhibition is being hosted at Parliament by Member for Sydney Alex Greenwich.

"This exhibition is full of thought-provoking, challenging and inspiring ideas about what the post-pandemic future could hold – it will definitely spark conversations about what we want to create for ourselves and future generations," Mr Greenwich says. "It's also an incredibly unique take on the concept of a 'museum', turning the idea upside down and inviting visitors to look through windows to the future, rather than the past."

The exhibition is on show in the Parliament's Fountain Court, which is a particularly special area of the building, says President of the NSW Legislative Council the Honourable Ben Franklin.

"The Fountain Court is our dedicated exhibition space, where visitors can enjoy high-calibre art and exhibitions across the year. It's a fantastic space nestled at the heart of the building, where visitors will always be surprised and drawn in by what they see."

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Greg Piper, agrees. "New exhibitions are opened in the Fountain Court every month as part of the Parliament's ongoing program, bringing in exhibitors from across the state," he says. "This means there's always something fresh to discover."

Museum of Futures: Our Shared Futures can be seen in the Fountain Court of NSW Parliament House (6 Macquarie Street, Sydney) on weekdays between 9am and 5pm until Thursday 29 June. Entry is free. For those unable to visit in person, a virtual gallery can be browsed at www.bit.ly/mof-our-shared-futures.

A note about accessing Parliament House:

The Parliament is currently undergoing restoration works, but remains open to the public. Access is to the left of the building, via the security gatehouse. Visitors can follow the signage into the building and take either the stairs or lift to the Fountain Court.

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Interviews with artists available. Contact Museum of Futures co-curators Claire Marshall (0433 451 000 or claire@iflabs.com.au) and Mel Rumble (0481 765 856 or mel@melrumble.com).

For general information about exhibitions at Parliament House and the year's ongoing exhibition program, contact Lauren Monaghan, Director of Communications and Engagement (9230 2103 or lauren.monaghan@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

Artists involved in *Pandemic Pivots*: Louis Pratt; Annie McKinnon; Guy Fredericks; Jasmine Craciun; Nadya E Anderson; Jeff McCann; Orion Mitchell; Rocco Fazzari; Linda Dement; Paul Brown; and Naz Jebeli.

Communities involved in *Pandemic Pivots*: GreenUps sustainability community; Dirt Girl World Facebook group; Rainbow Families; Sydney Art Galleries & Art Community; Sydney Wildlife Rescue volunteers; Studio A (collective of artists with a disability); Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration; New Economy Network Australia; and National Centre for Indigenous Excellence.