

MEDIA RELEASE

19 December 2022

***Curiosity Brisbane* artworks set to take over the city in 2023**

The cultural heart of Brisbane will come to life with 14 inspirational artworks as World Science Festival Brisbane presents *Curiosity Brisbane* from 22 March – 2 April 2023 across South Bank.

Curiosity Brisbane 2023, a key pillar of **World Science Festival Brisbane's** programming – delivered by Queensland Museum Network – will showcase 14 creations intersecting arts, science and technology over 12 immersive days for curious minds of all ages.

Artists from across the globe including award winners from Australia and as far as Germany and the United Kingdom have been chosen to create and display artworks that blend science, innovation, and art in thought-provoking ways that consider some of the most important issues facing our society and planet.

From an earthly Trojan horse and singing seesaws, to autonomous systems creating catopias and cybernetic habitats, the *Curiosity Brisbane* artworks will transform Brisbane into a captivating wonderland for visitors.

Minister for Arts Leanne Enoch said *Curiosity* was a highlight of the World Science Festival Brisbane in 2023.

“Featuring artists from Queensland, and around the world, *Curiosity Brisbane* will present a range of ground-breaking art works in unique settings and is set to inspire festival goers to expand their creative thinking,” Minister Enoch said.

“Artworks that highlight the synergy of science with creativity, will incorporate robotics and sound and as a result of a collaboration with Queensland schools, will also reflect the ideas and concepts of local school students.

“*Curiosity* aims to capture the beauty of science through art and builds on the Queensland Government's investment of \$9 million for the World Science Festival Brisbane from 2022 to 2024, extending this signature Queensland event to offer engaging arts experiences in Brisbane.”

Queensland Museum Network CEO Jim Thompson was enthusiastic about delivering *Curiosity Brisbane* as part of World Science Festival Brisbane in 2023.

“This year's artists showcase the interconnectivity between arts and science and how this creativity promotes the biggest ideas shaping our world,” Dr Thompson said.

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“After the program was reimagined following the serious flooding events in 2022, I am delighted that the curious minds of Brisbane can experience these 14 installations of *Curiocity Brisbane in 2023* in March and April,” Dr Thompson said.

Tourism and Innovation Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said *Curiocity Brisbane* and the World Science Festival were significant contributors to Brisbane’s visitor economy.

“This inspiring combination of art and science is always a hit with regional Queensland and interstate visitors sharing Brisbane’s great lifestyle,” Mr Hinchliffe said.

“*Curiocity Brisbane* and the World Science Festival are drivers of a \$12.7 million bonanza for Brisbane’s accommodation and hospitality providers and world-class tourism operators.”

Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said the mix of science and art throughout the city provides the opportunity for visitors to take in some of Brisbane’s best-known venues.

“With artworks returning to spots like South Bank’s Riverside Green, the Cultural Precinct and Queen Street Mall, *Curiocity Brisbane* is a great opportunity for residents and visitors to explore the city’s vibrant culture and public spaces,” Cr Schrinner said.

“Brisbane really is the perfect place for this event, with our enviable outdoor lifestyle, world-class cultural precincts and reputation as a hub of innovation and creativity.”

Brisbane artist, academic and *Curiocity Brisbane* curator Jay Younger said that she is eager to work with this year’s artists to bring the latest ideas in science and technology into the public realm.

“In 2023, visitors to *Curiocity Brisbane* will explore world-class installations from the imaginative minds of prominent Australian and international artists,” Jay said.

Curiocity Brisbane 2023 will include **Madeleine Flynn & Tim Humphrey’s PIVOT**, a field of semi-intelligent seesaws at South Bank’s Little Stanley Street Lawn that talk, sing, and create conversations with its riders by listening for texts and responding through word recognition.

At South Bank’s Riverside Green stands **Simone Eisler’s** seven metre tall ***The Climate Wars***, which is inspired by the myths of the Trojan Horse and Noah’s Ark.

If you’ve ever wanted to watch three cats live out a life of leisure in a robot-controlled utopia, the adventurous artists **Blast Theory** explore the ambivalence of future autonomous systems in the premier of ***Cat Royale***, livestreamed from the UK in Queen Street Mall.

Enter a habitat of 15 semi-autonomous robots and watch their behaviours adapt as **Hochschuh & Donovan’s *Cybernetic Intimacy*** investigates interspecies communications by creating an emotionally charged atmosphere. At the same time the robots compose a real-time soundtrack, engaging the perceptual engine of the listener.

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Indigenous artist **Jennifer Herd's** large scale vinyl image ***Amplify/Defy*** explores the colouration properties of camouflage and combines them with references to the rainforest shields of her ancestors. Her bold visual language amplifies the voice of her people and defies the ongoing silencing of Aboriginal perspectives in Australia's history.

Interactive Media Collective & Griffith University celebrate the intersection of art and science by exploring the output of electronic sounds through the transference of human kinetic energy in ***T.H.E.M.***, while **Martin Edge & Cultural Crusader's *I SEE Martin Edge*** aspires to create a movement of inclusive cultural experiences for young people who are neurodiverse, by upscaling Martin's artworks into playscapes, bringing it to life via Augmented Reality.

These world-renowned artists have been selected from an international pool to manifest curious creations to inspire Brisbane throughout March.

Also making its return in 2023 is the *Curiosity Brisbane* Schools Program, where selected Queensland schools have the chance to work with artists to bring their mind-blowing ideas to life in temporary outdoor installations.

The artists and the materials are funded by Queensland Museum Network, who will also cover travel expenses for selected students to attend the opening of *Curiosity Brisbane* and see their ideas transformed into public artistic installations.

Emma Gardner will give life to **MacGregor State High School's** concept ***The Elements Contained***, a poetic response to the natural elements of earth, fire, water, and air created through the patchworking of the alchemic process of Cyanotype with technology.

Nicknamed ***Electrophon***, **Guy Cooper** and **Calliope State School** will compose a touch-free music instrument that uses proximity sensors to create sounds and light bars that reflect the pitch of the notes.

From the ideas of **Kimberley Park State School** students, **Make+Meld** will develop the octagonal ***Hydro spiral***, that mounts in the middle of a table, where those who sit can interact with LED balls that travel through a spiral maze filled with water.

Investigating how colours are sourced in the natural environment is ***The Science of Natural Colour*** by **Therese Flynn-Clarke** and **Bellbird Park State Secondary College**.

To find out more about the successful artists and their artistic installations and for more information visit worldsciencefestival.com.au

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CURIOCITY BRISBANE 2023

Artworks and Artists

SOUTH BANK PARKLANDS

- *Cybernetic Intimacy* – Hochschuh & Donovan
- *Defy/Amplify* – Jennifer Herd
- *I See, Martin Edge* – Martin Edge & Cultural Crusader
- *PIVOT* – Madeleine Flynn & Tim Humphrey
- *Refraction Parabola* – Ross Manning
- *The Climate Wars* – Simone Eisler
- *T.H.E.M.* – Interactive Media Collective/Griffith University

BRISBANE CBD & FORTITUDE VALLEY

- *Cat Royale* – Blast Theory

CULTURAL PRECINCT

- *Burnett River Petroglyph Rubbings* - Dylan Sarra

DIGITAL

- *Dr SCRAPS' Corporeal Symphonies* – Laura Hill

CURIOCITY BRISBANE SCHOOLS PROGRAM 2023

Artworks, Artists, and Schools

- *The Elements Contained* – Emma Gardner and MacGregor State School
- *Electrophon: a unique ultrasonic instrument and light show* – Guy Cooper and Calliope State School
- *Hydro spiral* – Make+Meld and Kimberley Park State School
- *The Science of Natural Colour* – Therese Flynn-Clarke and Bellbird State Secondary College

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World Science Festival Brisbane 2023 is presented by Queensland Museum Network with support from Queensland Government and Strategic Partners Tourism Events Queensland and Brisbane Economic Development Agency.

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The Queensland Government via Tourism and Events Queensland and Brisbane City Council via Brisbane Economic Development Agency, is proud to support World Science Festival Brisbane, World Science Festival Queensland and Curiosity Brisbane, which features on the It's Live! in Queensland events calendar. Your perfect next event is in Queensland where live events combine with the most incredible destinations, and life is beautiful one day, perfect the next.

ABOUT WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL BRISBANE | 22- 26 March 2023 | worldsciencefestival.com.au

Queensland Museum Network holds exclusive licence to host World Science Festival in the Asia Pacific – the only global extension of this initiative, and WSFB has attracted more than 800,000 attendances, and \$36 million into the Queensland economy, since 2016. World Science Festival Brisbane reinforces Queensland's position as a knowledge economy and ignites new and challenging discussions about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) so that more and more people experience the value, impacts and wonder of science.

ABOUT CURIOCITY BRISBANE | 22 March – 2 April 2023 | worldsciencefestival.com.au

Since 2019, Curiosity Brisbane has sparked inspiration and innovation, transforming our city into an interactive place to “explore, create and play”. During March, Curiosity Brisbane invites visitors to let their imaginations roam free, with installations, workshops and talks from high-profile artists that celebrate the connection between art, science and technology. In 2023, Curiosity Brisbane will be delivered as part of World Science Festival Brisbane, presented by Queensland Museum Network.

ABOUT WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL QUEENSLAND | various dates, 2023 | worldsciencefestival.com.au

World Science Festival Queensland explores and celebrates the connection of science and art at five regional locations around Queensland, including Toowoomba, Townsville, Ipswich, Chinchilla and Gladstone.