



# Fringe art fairs take over the town in the wake of Melbourne Art Fair's cancellation



Annabel Ross

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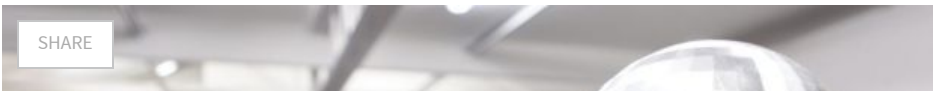
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In February, the Melbourne Art Foundation announced that after 28 years and 14 biennial events, it was [cancelling the Melbourne Art Fair](#), a marketplace for contemporary artists and galleries from the Asia-Pacific region.

The announcement came in the wake of some high-profile galleries withdrawing from the event in recent years, among them Melbourne's Anna Schwartz Gallery and Tolarno Galleries. The costs of exhibiting at the event and a preference for showing at international fairs were cited as causes for the withdrawals.



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Guests at the Notfair art fair. Photo: John Woudstra

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NotFair was the first event to pop up as an alternative to Melbourne Art Fair in 2010; six years later five art fairs have emerged in its place in the week the 15th Melbourne Art Fair was due to be held.

**NOTFAIR**

**524 Flinders Street, Melbourne, August 16-21**



Suite 218 at Hotel Windsor, by Wellington artist Hamish McKay, part of the inaugural Spring 1883 art fair in 2014. Photo: Zan Wimberley

Representing those without gallery representation, NotFair is a platform for emerging and independent artists to exhibit their works. It's the antithesis of trade art fairs such as the Melbourne Art Fair, dominated by galleries and gallery-backed artists.

The biannual event was founded in 2010 by Melbourne-based artists Tony Lloyd and Sam Leach and Melbourne arts writer Ashley Crawford.

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The 2016 exhibition, themed *Sign O' The Times* in a nod to Prince, will be collated by local art curator, consultant and writer Kirsten Rann. It features 25 artists including Lillian Senga Addie, Steven Asquith, Jeremy Blincoe, Michael Candy and Isabelle de Kleine and

includes a program of tours and pop-up talks.



Michael Lynch is the guest of honour at Flair. Photo: Steven Siewert

### SPRING 1883

**Hotel Windsor, 111 Spring Street, Melbourne, August 17-21**

**Spring 1883** is an international art event at the Hotel Windsor, where local and overseas galleries present their works in the hotel's rooms

It was established in 2014 as an alternative to Melbourne Art Fair by independent Melbourne gallerists Geoff Newton (Neon Parc), Vikki McInnes and Kate Barber (Sarah Scout Presents) and Vasili Kaliman (art adviser).

Last year it was held in Sydney for the first time at the Establishment Hotel. Participating galleries this year number 27, up from 19 at the original event.

Exhibitors this year include Grey Noise (Dubai), KANSAS (New York), Tolarno Galleries (Melbourne) and Hugo Michell Gallery (Adelaide).



Works at & art fair include this koala sculpture by Bruce Armstrong. Photo: Supplied

Of the new guard of Melbourne art fairs, this one is the biggest, and the only to have international representation. However you feel about

the only to have international representation. However you feel about viewing art in a hotel, the quality is likely to be high.

## **& ART FAIR**

**Far East Consortium developments, within Watertank Way (220 Spencer Street) and Rose Lane (603 Little Bourke Street) August 17-21**

A showcase of 25 sculptors from 12 galleries across two locations. All items will be for sale.

This is the first event, founded and curated by Julie Collins, a sculptor with experience curating the Lorne Sculpture Biennale, and current artistic director of the Biennale of Australian Art (Ballarat, 2018).

It features artists including Bruce Armstrong, Dean Bowen, Cliff Burt, Yvonne Kendall, Mark Cuthbertson and more.

This is the only art fair dedicated to ceramics and it will be interesting to see how they convert the space at the consortium.

## **602**

**602 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, August 17-21**

"The energy of 602 finds its roots in the rough-and-tumble Berlin style of creative collaboration" says director Scott Livesey of the fair.

Livesey of Scott Livesey Galleries in Armadale founded the inaugural event, bringing together nine galleries in the basement of a former electricity substation in the CBD.

The event will showcase the work of more than 40 Australian and international artists from Sydney and Melbourne galleries including Michael Reid, Charles Nodrum Gallery and Martin Browne Contemporary.

They had us at "rough-and-tumble Berlin style". We love a good warehouse conversion in Melbourne.

## **FLAIR**

**Various galleries, Flinders Lane**

An event showcasing galleries based around the top end of Melbourne's Flinders Lane

Held for the first time this year, Flair is what happens when the Flinders Lane arts crowd gets together and decide to put on their own festival.

Events including a keynote address from leading arts administrator Michael Lynch will take place across the venues such as

Arc One Gallery, Craft, fortyfivedownstairs, Arts Project Australia, Collins Place Pop-up, Sofitel Melbourne on Collins and Global Art

Projects.

Worth a look mostly for Lynch's talk and to hear from other prominent arts figures including Jane Scott, outgoing Craft Victoria CEO and Bronwyn Johnson, president of Arts Project Australia and one-time director of Melbourne Art Fair.

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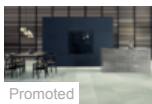
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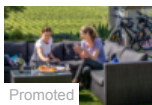
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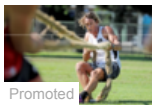
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