

FINAL - Media release

Enter a World of WearableArt™ at Vivid Sydney

Visitors to Vivid Sydney at Chatswood will be invited to leave their world behind as they experience the World of WearableArt™.

Six extraordinary garments from the world's leading wearable art design competition will be exhibited as part of Vivid Sydney at Chatswood from 25 May to 16 June.

New Zealand's largest arts event, World of WearableArt is a combination of a spectacular stage show and an international design competition, held annually in Wellington to an audience of over 60,000.

This is the first time New Zealand's World of WearableArt, which is celebrating its 30th show in 2018, has been featured at Vivid Sydney.

World of WearableArt Chief Executive Gisella Carr says the Vivid Sydney installation recognises the strong relationship between World of WearableArt and Australia.

“Over our 30-year history we've received more than 600 garment entries from Australian designers. In last year's show there were seven Australian finalist garments, four of which were award-winners.

“At our core, World of WearableArt is an international design competition and Vivid Sydney at Chatswood offers us a great opportunity to show Australian audiences the incredible imagination, innovation, technical expertise and exceptional quality that goes into our finalist garments.”

Vivid Sydney at Chatswood has been designed by award-winning lighting and set designer Geoff Cobham, who is working on this year's 30th anniversary World of WearableArt show.

Cobham says World of WearableArt is a jewel in Chatswood's offering for Vivid Sydney.

“The display will occupy a part of the Chatswood Chase shopping centre and is in the heart of that centre's fashion precinct. I can't wait to see the response when people walk through the normally empty space and are confronted by World of WearableArt in all its splendour,” he says.

Designers from Australia, the United Kingdom, Indonesia and New Zealand are included in the display. Supreme winner Rinaldy Yunardi is among those featured. The Indonesian designer's work *Cosmos* won the Avant-garde Section at last year's competition and is the hero of this year's World of WearableArt campaign.

Australian designer Tess Tavener Hanks' garment *Kaleidoscope* is also on display. The 22-year-old from Sydney won the opportunity to intern with Cirque du Soleil's at its

headquarters in Montreal, Canada after winning World of WearableArt's Student Innovation Award and Cirque du Soleil Performance Art Costume Award in 2015.

She says the internship has given her the skills to establish a career in the fashion industry, leading her to complete a Bachelor of Fashion and Textiles Design (Hons) at University of Technology, Sydney.

"I am incredibly grateful for World of WearableArt's support in providing students like me with the opportunity to grow and learn within an international creative domain. I hope to continue to utilise these skills as I undertake work and establish my career in the fashion industry."

Tavener Hanks says it's surreal to have her World of WearableArt garment showcased at Vivid Sydney at Chatswood.

"Vivid Sydney is such an interactive and innovative concept I feel incredibly grateful to have my garment on display. I hope that the Sydney community will embrace and enjoy the inspiration and creativity behind the work."

Celebrating its 30th year, World of WearableArt showcases the most innovative and cutting edge designers from around the globe alongside the best of New Zealand's creative industries including theatre, dance and music.

Cobham says he's most looking forward to working with the garments on stage.

"It's an exciting challenge to create a magical world that puts the garments at its centre and also has enough theatricality to transform the event from a fashion parade in to a show. Once we get all the garments, the next challenge is to make sure each one is displayed and lit so we show off its best features."

Vivid Sydney is on from 25 May - 16 June, with the Vivid Sydney at Chatswood World of WearableArt installation open daily.

<https://www.vividsydney.com/event/light/world-wearableart>

<http://www.visit chatswood.com.au/vivid-2018/world-of-wearable-art/>

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Notes to Editors

About World of WearableArt™

World of WearableArt (WOW) is the world's leading wearable art design competition, celebrating its 30th year in 2018. WOW's combination of an international design competition inside a spectacular stage show is New Zealand's single largest annual theatrical production and a must-see event for more than 60,000 people every year. As an organisation, WOW also includes the National WOW Museum in Nelson, an expanding international exhibition touring and presentation programme, and creative businesses that operate across three New Zealand cities.

The World of WearableArt Awards Show is on in Wellington, New Zealand from 27 September - 14 October. Tickets on sale now from worldofwearableart.com.

World of WearableArt finalist garments on display at Vivid Sydney

Cosmos, Rinaldy Yunardi, Indonesia (2017)

The Universe is seen as a well-ordered whole, encapsulating its system of thought, reason and emotions. Its innate character is to defend and protect the natural order and balance. Winner of the Avant-garde Section in WOW 2017, this garment shines bright under lights and is the face of the WOW 2018 campaign.

Kaleidoscope, Tess Tavener Hanks, University of Technology Sydney, Australia (2015)

Drawing inspiration from the kaleidoscope itself, this garment is made up of a succession of symmetrical designs and angular shapes from panels of coloured acrylic and mirrors. In 2015, her garment *Kaleidoscope* won the Student Innovation Award and the Cirque du Soleil Performance Art Costume Award. As part of the latter award, Tavener Hanks was flown over to Montreal, Canada to work with WOW partner and internationally renowned performance company, Cirque du Soleil for a four-week internship.

Kahu Kererū, Andi Regan, New Zealand (2014)

The majestic presence of the kererū (New Zealand wood pigeon) is a heart-warming sight, cloaking New Zealand's native forest in beauty. To create *Kahu Kererū*, the design hand-dyed over 20,000 cable ties to create the feather-like colours of the kererū's plumage. Andi Regan is an artist based in Wanaka, New Zealand who has been entering the WOW design competition since 2010. Her work is inspired by pattern, order and process as well as her love for New Zealand's flora and fauna.

Rorschach's Dreamscape, Rodney Leong, New Zealand (2012)

Inspired by a fascination with Rorschach's inkblot test, *Rorschach's Dreamscape* questioned the possibility if Rorschach ever dreamed in ink blot images - melding one into the other - twisting and distorting and reappearing as something else. The designer expressed this using a reflective material to give the illusion that the garment is mid-flight and ever-changing. A WOW veteran, Rodney Leong has been entering WOW since 1995 and has had 19 garment selected as finalists in the competition including his 2006 *piece The Love Of Icarus* which won the elusive Supreme WOW Award. Leong has diplomas in fashion design, textiles and patternmaking which, along with his day job as a pattern cutter, have given him an exceptional understanding of how garments should fit the body.

Knight of Fire, Maria Tsopanaki & Dimitri Mavinis, United Kingdom (2015)

The *Knight of Fire* is a powerful female knight of the future, she is the guardian of Universal Law, seeking to create a better future in a new world of light. Her armour is made up of hundreds of handmade red tinted mirror pieces, which reflect the light and portray the playful and complex elements of fire. The garment's structure is inspired by modern architecture, especially mirrored and glass buildings.

Princess Niwareka, Maria Tsopanaki & Dimitri Mavinis, United Kingdom (2016)

Inspired by rich Māori culture and attracted by the art of Tā Moko tattoo, the designers chose to embody the princess of Rarohenga (the underworld), Niwareka. The garment has been designed to be a second-skin outfit, embellished with thousands of square mirror pieces. The designs feature Māori symbols of Hei Matau (the spiral), Moana (the ocean), Enata (couples) and Niho Mana. London-based designers Maria Tsopanaki & Dimitri Mavinis created their fashion label so they could make works of art. Launched in 2011, Erevos Aether is internationally acclaimed, producing bespoke creations that adorn the likes of Lady Gaga, the Black Eyed Peas and Jessie J.

About Vivid Sydney

Vivid Sydney is the world's largest festival of light, music and ideas and now the largest event in Australia. For 23 days - from 25 May to 16 June 2018 – the event places a spotlight on Sydney and reinforces its position as the home of light, creativity, cutting edge music, engaging conversations and the exchange of new ideas. The festival is owned, managed and produced by Destination NSW, the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency. In 2017 Vivid Sydney attracted a record 2.33 million attendees and injected over \$143 million into NSW's visitor economy. For more information visit www.vividsydney.com