

Anish Kapoor

20 December 2012 – 1 April 2013
Level 1 North and Level 3 Galleries



Anish Kapoor *My Red Homeland*, 2003 installation view, Kunsthaus Bregenz, 2003 wax and oil-based paint, steel arm, motor. Image courtesy and © the artist. Photograph: Nic Tenwiggenhorn

The Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA) presents the first major exhibition in Australia of Mumbai-born, London-based artist **Anish Kapoor**.



Anish Kapoor *Memory*, 2008 installation view, Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin 2009 Cor-ten steel. Image courtesy the artist and Deutsche Guggenheim © the artist. Photograph: Mathias Schormann





Anish Kapoor *1000 Names*, 1979-80 wood, gesso, pigment. Image courtesy and © the artist

This unique exhibition, which is the first major presentation of the artist's work in Australia, includes works from the early stages of Kapoor's career to the present day. It explores the artist's continual experimentation across a variety of materials including clay, plastic, pigment, steel and wax to create works of great visual power and emotional impact.

Highlights include one of the artist's most ambitious works for a gallery, *Memory* (2008), commissioned by Deutsche Bank in consultation with the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation for the Deutsche Guggenheim. In the work's first presentation in the Southern Hemisphere, *Memory* completely fills the MCA's sizable Level 3 Gallery as if squeezed between the white walls. Viewers experience the rust-coloured bulbous structure from several angles including a window that looks into the cavernous interior space. By restricting the ability to view the whole work from a single point, Kapoor challenges the public to imagine the object in its entirety by piecing together memories of the work from different locations.

The exhibition also comprises a selection of the early works that first brought Anish Kapoor to prominence. Created following a short trip to India, *1000 Names* (1979-80) consists of primary coloured geometric forms produced using brightly coloured powdered pigments placed on the floor or situated on the wall.



Anish Kapoor *Void*, 1989 fibreglass, pigment. Image courtesy and © the artist. Photograph: Dave Morgan

Another highlight is *Void* (1989), a large concave shape coated in a deep blue pigment that toys with perception. The shape changes from a convex to a concave form depending on where the viewer is situated, whilst the colour of the piece disrupts the ability to determine the object's true proportions.

The MCA's spacious Level 1 North Gallery is the ideal setting for the enormous wax sculpture *My Red Homeland* (2003). In this monumental circular sculpture, a large motorised steel blade slowly cuts a course through 25 tons of wax and Vaseline mixed with a deep red pigment. Over the period of an hour the blade traces the circumference of the structure, which measures 12 metres in diameter, endlessly dissecting and re-shaping the wax into new forms. Drawing associations with organic material such as blood, *My Red Homeland* stimulates not only an emotional but also a physical response.



Anish Kapoor *Between Shit and Architecture*, 2011 installation view, Chapelle des Petits-Augustins of the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts, Paris, 2011 concrete. Image courtesy and © the artist. Photograph: Fabrice Seixas

“I am delighted that the MCA will be presenting the first major exhibition of my work in Australia. The show includes a wide range of work including examples of my more recent sculpture which I hope will be of interest to new audiences.” **Anish Kapoor** CBE

“An exhibition of the work of Anish Kapoor is long overdue in Australia and we are so pleased that Anish accepted our invitation to make a major exhibiton for the MCA. An exhibition that includes some of his most ambitious gallery-based works as well as the earlier pigment works that are so distinctive will undoubtedly resonate with a broad audience.” **Elizabeth Ann Macgregor** OBE



This major solo exhibition spread across two floors of the MCA is part of the Sydney International Art Series, bringing the world's most outstanding exhibitions to Australia. It has been made possible with the support of the NSW Government through Destination NSW and is sponsored by Deutsche Bank.

As part of his visit to Sydney for the opening, Anish Kapoor will present the Ann Lewis AO Contemporary Visual Arts International Address, supported through the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council for the Arts.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Anish Kapoor was born on 12 March 1954 in Mumbai (Bombay). He moved to London in the early 1970s where he has lived and worked ever since. He studied art at Hornsey College of Art (1973-1977) and at Chelsea School of Art (1977-1978). His first solo exhibition was held at Patrice Alexandre in Paris in 1980. He quickly gained international attention and acclaim for a series of solo exhibitions at venues including: Tate Gallery, London (1990-01); Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2003); Fondazione Prada, Milano (1995); Hayward Gallery, London (1998); BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead (1999); Piazza del Plebiscito, Naples (1999); Kunsthaus Bregenz (2003); MAC Grand-Hornu, Belgium (2004); Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples (2004); Deutsche Guggenheim Berlin (2008) MAK, Vienna (2009); Royal Academy of Arts, London (2009); Pinchuk Arts Centre, Kiev (2010); and Guggenheim Bilbao (2010).

His major solo exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts in London (26 September – 11 December 2010) was the most successful ever presented by a contemporary artist in London. He has participated in many group shows internationally including those at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, Royal Academy of Arts and Serpentine Gallery in London, Documenta IX in Kassel, Moderna Museet in Stockholm and Jeu de Paume and Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. He represented Britain at the Paris Biennale in 1982 and at the Venice Biennale in 1990, where he was awarded the 'Premio Duemila'. He won the Turner Prize in 1991 and he received the prestigious Unilever Commission for the Turbine Hall at Tate Modern in 2002, which he realised with the much-acclaimed work, *Marsyas*. In 2011 his specially commissioned work *Leviathan* was unveiled in the nave of the Grand Palais in Paris in the *Monumenta* series.

Throughout his career he has worked extensively with architects and engineers on projects including Tees Valley Giants, a series of five large-scale sculptures created in collaboration with the leading structural engineer, Cecil Balmond. He created the site-specific work, *The Farm* for the outdoor art gallery of the same name in Kaipara Bay, north of Auckland, New Zealand. Among his major permanent commissions is *Cloud Gate* (2004) for the Millennium Park in Chicago, considered to be the most popular public artwork in the world. His commissioned permanent artwork *ArcelorMittal Orbit* is the official London 2012 Olympics monument. He was elected Royal Academician in 1999 and has been awarded Honorary Fellowships by the London Institute and Leeds University (1997), University of Wolverhampton (1999) and the Royal Institute of British Architects (2001). He was awarded a CBE in 2003.

He is represented by the Lisson Gallery, London; Gladstone Gallery, New York; Kukje, Seoul, and Galleria Continua and Galleria Massimo Minini in Italy.

MAJOR PARTNER'S MESSAGE

Deutsche Bank has supported the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia for well over a decade. In addition to sponsoring this exhibition, it is the MCA's first ever Education Partner, supporting learning programs at the MCA and its National Centre for Creative Learning.

Anish Kapoor is represented in Deutsche Bank's collection with numerous works on paper as well as two important sculptures: *Turning the World Upside Down* (1996), one of his first-ever stainless steel pieces and *Memory* (2008), made of 24 tons of untreated Cor-Ten steel, which will be one of the key pieces of the MCA's exhibition.

Deutsche Bank has supported contemporary art for more than 30 years. It has one of the largest corporate art collections in the world, comprising more than 56,000 pieces of art, of which 95 percent are accessible to the public. The bank is also a major sponsor of international and local events including the Hong Kong International Art Fair and the Frieze Art Fairs in London and New York.

“Deutsche Bank has supported both Anish Kapoor and the MCA for many years, so we are delighted not only to be sponsoring this stunning exhibition but also that they have chosen to feature our work **Memory** as one of the highlights.”

- JT Macfarlane, Executive Chairman, Deutsche Bank Australia and New Zealand

ABOUT THE SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL ART SERIES

The 2012–13 Sydney International Art Series features *Anish Kapoor* at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and *Francis Bacon: Five decades* at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Created by Destination NSW and supported by the NSW Government, the Sydney International Art Series is one of five signature events on the NSW Events Calendar, which features a range of vibrant arts and cultural events exclusive to Sydney.

Tickets for the Sydney International Art Series 2012–13 are on sale from 25 July 2012. A special Sydney International Art Pass is also available and provides discounted entry to both exhibitions.

All tickets are available via mca.com.au/anishkapoor

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