
Media Release: Exhibition

Freestyle: new Australian design for living



Gray Street Workshop, Julie Blyfield, *Pressed desert plant group*, 2005, oxidised sterling silver, enamel, wax. Photo: Grant Hancock; Marc Pascal, *Eyoi Yoi* table light, polycarbonate halogen G9 globe. Photo: Ric Wallis; Akira Isogawa, "Akira" Silk Organza Ruffle Dress, Printemps Ete 2006 (shown in Paris, October 2005). Photo: Stephen Ward. Model: Tallulah @ Scene

Australian design is witnessing a coming of age. Emerging now – from a nation that values its quality of life and has always necessitated innovation – is a locally strong and globally confident new design industry.

Object Gallery and Melbourne Museum present a groundbreaking exhibition of contemporary Australian design. *Freestyle: new Australian design for living* will overview Australia's best and freshest design for the home and the body by 40 outstanding designers. Included in the line-up is furniture by Charles Wilson, lighting by bernabeifreeman, textiles by cloth, homewares by Jon Goulder, fashion by Easton Pearson and Akira Isogawa, jewellery by Dinosaur Designs and personal accessories by Crumpler. Together, the works on show profile the character, vibrancy and increasing maturity of contemporary design in Australia. *Freestyle* will also reveal the 'stories' behind the designs, disclosing aspects of the personality, passion and process of individual designers and place their work in broader personal and cultural contexts.

Curated by Object's Associate Director Brian Parkes and accompanied by a major publication – with exhibition design and identity by internationally acclaimed Frost Design – this compelling survey exhibition is a first-time collaboration between the Melbourne Museum and Object Gallery. Opening in Melbourne, *Freestyle* travels to Sydney before embarking on a national and international tour.

Object Gallery
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Surry Hills Sydney
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Forbes Street
Darlinghurst Sydney

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