

# MOFO

15 — 19 Jan  
2014

MEDIA RELEASE

X+  
MUSEUM OF OLD  
AND NEW ART

## CONRAD SHAWCROSS [UK] MONA FOMA 2014

Conrad Shawcross is a British artist who specialises in mechanical sculptures based on philosophical and scientific ideas, exploring subjects that lie on the borders of geometry and philosophy, physics and metaphysics. Attracted by failed quests for knowledge in the past, he often appropriates redundant theories and methodologies to create ambitious structural and mechanical montages, using a wide variety of materials and media, and working on an epic scale.

For MOFO 2014, *The ADA Project* is an industrial robot that morphs into a graceful choreographed dancing light sculpture. The work is inspired by Ada Lovelace (1815-1852), renowned mathematician and daughter of Lord Byron, who predicted computer-generated music 100 years before it eventuated. Live performance and music meet warehouse chic, as international contemporary stars perform with the robot at specified times.

Inspired by the life of the Victorian mathematician, Ada Lovelace, artist Conrad Shawcross has transformed an industrial robot into a choreographed light sculpture which forms the origin of a series of musical commissions and residencies by leading female composers and performers. Acknowledged by some as the first computer programmer, Lovelace worked alongside Charles Babbage, the inventor of the Analytical Engine - the first mechanical computer. While the immense machine was never completed in their lifetimes, Ada saw its potential beyond mere calculation; predicting computer-generated music in her notes.

Furnished with a series of background texts, imagery and related material, Shawcross's studio serves as a laboratory and residency space for each composer-performer to respond to the presence of the robot's silent choreography. The resulting music is born from the story of Ada, and the movement, physicality and visual aesthetics of the robot. An identical robot is installed at the MACI, perpetually carrying out its choreography, casting light on the different aspects of Lovelace's extraordinary life.

**Performing artists** include Tamara Barnett-Herrin & Mylo, Mira Calix & Teresa Duddy, Beatrice Dillon & Rupert Clervaux, Holly Herndon (virtual performance).

+ **Performance:** Thursday | Jan 18 & Friday | Jan 17, 6pm, Saturday | Jan 18, 4pm, Sunday | Jan 19, 4pm & 8pm, MACI, Hobart, included in Festival Ticket. Limited capacity.

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+ **Installation:** See calendar for opening hours, MACI, included in Festival Ticket.

## REVIEWS

<http://www.factmag.com/2013/10/08/the-robots-are-dancing-how-conrad-shawcross-and-holly-herndon-built-the-remarkable-ada-project/>  
<http://www.artslant.com/par/events/show/281186-ada>

## WIKI BIO

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conrad\\_Shawcross](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conrad_Shawcross)

## LINK – INSTALLATIONS

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7Uk45AWxcA>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzASGEoPgr0>

MEDIA images and interview requests, contact:

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