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photos: Mitch Osbourne and Peter Whyte

## THE MUSEUM OF EVERYTHING

Museum of Old and New Art (MONA)  
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After an exhilarated journey through thirty rooms and many corridors of remarkable images and objects made by over 200 artists, any visitor to The Museum of Everything in Hobart will have been challenged to reassess their preconceptions about why human beings are compelled to give visual form to their understanding of the world they inhabit.

Finally, you arrive in a backyard courtyard, entered through a fly-wire screen door. Painted on the wall is a call-out for more people who might be included in some future exhibition. It asks, are you a self-taught or secret artist? Is your home your own personal gallery? Have you invented a private language? If so contact The Museum of Everything.

Inspired by remarkable work produced by men and women for whom the act of creation is fundamental to their existence many have struggled to find a way to explain who they are and what they do. Whatever category assigned them, and none is

entirely satisfactory, the artists whose works adorn the walls are clearly extraordinary! The great challenge of this exhibition is to learn to look and to receive the wonders presented to us, to lift the filters we normally have in place in an art gallery and look intensely at works that break rules, disrupt expectations and offer us insights into the lives of remarkable human beings.

Each of these artists has remade their world through a physical engagement with the tools of art, and because of that, we have a window into some remarkable personal narratives. In 2007 I had the opportunity to meet Stan Hopewell, who is represented in this exhibition by his masterwork 'The Last Supper.' Like others compelled to make images that try to answer the big questions and confront the crucial problems in life, the task appeared so great and so necessary and so profound that to embark on it Stan required divine guidance.

Hopewell's is but one of the inspiring human stories from the vast array that lie behind the over 2000 objects hung throughout the temporary gallery space of MoNA. Of course, they add a dimension to our reading of the works,