

Media kit

A Journey to Freedom

8 June – 29 July 2018



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MUSEUM OF OLD
AND NEW ART

Free admission
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Dunn Place, Hobart
www.tmag.tas.gov.au



Presented by Dark Mofo, Mona and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

A Journey to Freedom

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
8 June – 29 July 2018

Media Release

The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) is delighted to present a new contemporary art exhibition, *A Journey to Freedom*, as part of Dark Mofo 2018.

Guest curated by Swiss curator Barbara Polla, in collaboration with Olivier Varenne from Mona and Dr Mary Knights from TMAG, *A Journey to Freedom* explores issues relating to incarceration from a range of different cultural and historical perspectives: from Tasmania's dark convict past, to doing time in the notorious "Pink Palace" Risdon Prison and the experience of refugees held in camps and detention centres in Australia and beyond.

The exhibition brings together new and recent works by contemporary national and international artists working across installation, sculpture, video, photography and virtual reality with works presented across the museum's temporary galleries and transitional spaces.

International artists include Janet Biggs, Nicolas Daubanes, Mounir Fatmi, Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, Ali Kazma, Rachel Labastie, Robert Montgomery, Jean-Michel Pancin and Jhafis Quintero.

Australian artists include Shaun Gladwell, Sam Wallman and well-known Tasmanian Ricky Maynard.

In developing the concept for this exhibition, Polla noted that ***"imprisonment and freedom are two faces of a double sword...any exploration of imprisonment is, by itself, a journey to freedom"***.

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with Barbara on this exciting new exhibition given her long standing interest in human rights," Dr Knights said.

"It is fantastic to be able to bring contemporary artists from Australia and around the world together to present a range of thought-provoking works at TMAG, providing audiences with

the opportunity to reflect on the nature of imprisonment at both a personal, local and global level.

"I am particularly excited that French artists Rachel Labastie and Nicolas Daubanes as well as Australian artist Sam Wallman have created new artworks on-site at TMAG especially for *A Journey to Freedom*."

TMAG Director Janet Carding said that TMAG was proud to partner with Dark Mofo and Mona on this exciting new exhibition.

"*A Journey to Freedom* is a great example of how by positioning ourselves as a partner of choice, TMAG is able to collaborate with major festivals and other cultural institutions to deliver a dynamic program of activities year-round that provide a premium visitor experience for both local audiences as well as visitors to Tasmania," Ms Carding said.

A Journey to Freedom opens with a special free late night

A Journey to Freedom

event on 8 June featuring a performance by Tasmanian sound artist Matt Warren. Additional late night openings are programmed throughout the Dark Mofo period.

A Journey to Freedom is presented by Dark Mofo, Mona and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG).

***A Journey to Freedom* opens to the public on Friday 8 June with a late night opening from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.**

There will be a special public holiday opening on Monday 11 June from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

During Dark Mofo, there will be late night openings until 9:00 pm from 15-17 June and 21-23 June.

The exhibition continues Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm until 29 July.

For more information, visit: www.tmag.tas.gov.au

About the Curator

Barbara Polla was born in 1950 in Geneva, Switzerland. There she obtained a medical degree with a specialization in internal medicine, pneumology and immuno-allergology and later worked as a medical researcher, authoring many peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals.

Polla got involved in politics in 1991, eventually becoming

an MP in the Swiss National Parliament from 1999-2003. She has committed herself to freedom at various levels: as MP, she fought in particular for freedom of genetic research and for the legalization of abortion.

Polla is the Co-Director of Galerie Analix, Geneva, and since 2011 she has curated several exhibitions in Geneva, Paris and further afield.

She has curated or co-curated nine group and solo exhibitions on the theme of 'Art and Prison', including *A Journey to Freedom*.

Polla organises bi-monthly international conferences on video art and works as an independent curator, gallerist and writer, promoting freedom through art and writing.



Ali Kazma (b.1971), *Prison*, 2013 (still), single-channel video. Courtesy of the artist and Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts.

A Journey to Freedom

Public Program

TMAG presents a program of free public events and guided talks to provide further insight into *A Journey to Freedom* and the cultural, historical and psychological circumstances that define confinement in all its many forms.

Opening Night

Friday 8 June
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Enjoy all the excitement of the exhibition opening with a special live durational sound performance by Matt Warren. Food and drink will also be available to purchase.

Late Night Openings

15, 16, 17, 21, 22 and 23 June
Open late until 9:00 pm

Extended late night viewings of the exhibition during Dark Mofo. Food and drink available to purchase.

In Conversation – Journeys to Freedom

Monday 11 June
11:00 am to 12:00 pm
Central Gallery

Join exhibition curator Barbara Polla, co-curator Dr Mary Knights, activist and humanitarian Madeleine Habib and refugee, business owner and hip hop artist Lawrence Gino as they discuss the international context, art and lived experience of journeying to freedom.

Curator Floor Talks

15 and 22 June
5:30 pm
Central Gallery

Join exhibition co-curator Dr Mary Knights on this dynamic floor talk as she introduces new and recent works brought together for *A Journey to Freedom*.

Guided Tours

9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29 and 30 June and 1 July
11:00 am
Central Gallery

Informative and engaging tours of the exhibition, led by one of TMAG's Art Guides.



Nicolas Daubanes, *Prohibition*, 2016 (detail).
Photographer: Pablo Garcia

Media can download images for publication at this link: <http://bit.ly/AJTFTMAG>

For media interviews, please contact Marketing and Communications Manager Andrée Hurburgh on 0418 218 407 or andree.hurburgh@tmag.tas.gov.au
