

PRESS RELEASE

56th October Salon

The Pleasure of Love: Transient Emotion in Contemporary Art

An exhibition of 67 artists from 26 countries

23 September – 6 November 2016

Belgrade, Serbia

The Pleasure of Love, the 56th October Salon (Belgrade), will see major contemporary artists from the Balkan region and the world at large curated into an important exhibition by renowned British curator David Elliot. JANET LAURENCE and Tracey Moffatt were selected to represent Australia at the 56th October Salon.

JANET LAURENCE

Janet Laurence is one of Australia's most significant living artists, recognised for her ground-breaking practice both nationally and internationally. Highly regarded for her immersive site-specific installations, she has been examining our experiential and cultural relationship with the natural world for over 40 years. The scope, complexity and originality of her artistic practice is staggering; her work skirts the boundaries of art, science, architecture, nature, the imagined world, history and memory.

The Pleasure of Love presents two works by Laurence: a site-specific installation and botanical experiment, *Underlying* (2016), and a reflective video work, *Vanishing* (2009). Both are exhibited within the historic Belgrade City Museum, Belgrade. In these works Laurence fuses ideas of communal loss with a search for connection with our natural environment, conveying a sense of wonder and engagement with the natural world whilst simultaneously drawing our attention to the disturbing effects of humans on our planet.

Laurence's inclusion in the 56th October Salon represents an important moment in an already distinguished career. The Salon follows on from numerous museum exhibitions and prominent festival involvements, including *Artists 4 Paris Climate Change*, 2015.

THE 56TH OCTOBER SALON

The Salon will take place in Belgrade City Museum and in the Cultural Centre of Belgrade, Serbia, from 23 September until 6 November 2016.

A distant relative of the infamous, 'anti-establishment' French *Autumn Salon* of Paris in 1903, the October Salon pays homage to this illustrious past by showing a number of emerging artists alongside already established artists. For half a century, the October Salon has presented a significant study of contemporary art. It has become a prestigious cultural institution involving significant visual artists and accomplished curators in the field.



Image: Janet Laurence, *Underlying* (sketch), 2016.



Image: Janet Laurence, *Vanishing* (installation view), 2009.

This year's curator, David Elliott, has developed the subject for the 56th October Salon exhibition from the opening lines of *Plasir d'Amour*, a French poem and love song written in 1784:

The pleasure of love lasts only a moment - while - the grief of love lasts a whole life through.

The Pleasure of Love: Transient Emotion in Contemporary Art examines art in its social and political contexts, contrasting its passionate aesthetic values with far less benevolent forces of power and control.

DAVID ELLIOT

David Elliot is a British curator, writer and professor of modern and contemporary art who has directed museums in Oxford, Stockholm, Tokyo, and Istanbul. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Triangle Art Network/Gasworks in London, Chairman of the Advisory Board of MOMENTUM in Berlin and a Visiting Professor in Curatorship at the Chinese University in Hong Kong. In 2008-10 he was Artistic Director of the *17th Biennale of Sydney* and in 2011-12 he directed the inaugural *International Biennale of Contemporary Art* in Kiev.



Image (left - right): David Elliot, Janet Laurence and Australian Ambassador to Serbia, Julia Feeney.

FURTHER DETAILS

56th October Salon: <http://oktobarskialon.org/home/>

Janet Laurence artist page: <http://arcone.com.au/artists/#/janet-laurence-1/>

Please note: The artist is available for interviews.

For all enquiries, interviews and images please contact ARC ONE Gallery
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