

24 March 2010

DIGITAL ODYSSEY: RENOWNED ARTIST CRAIG WALSH EMBARKS ON AN INNOVATIVE REGIONAL TOUR ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Murray Bridge, South Australia: The Museum of Contemporary Art is delighted to unveil today a new collaboration with internationally renowned Australian artist Craig Walsh. *Digital Odyssey: A Museum of Contemporary Art Touring Project* is an epic tour over 2010 and 2011 which brings Craig Walsh's evocative artwork to rural and remote locations throughout Australia. The project is being launched tonight at a special event in Murray Bridge in South Australia, the first destination on the two-year tour.

For this exciting and ambitious new project, Walsh will travel across Australia developing and presenting digital artworks in response to regional environments and local communities. The artist is travelling in a self-contained, digitally-equipped motor home which is also his mobile living and working environment, designed and fitted with all the necessary technical and AV equipment. *Digital Odyssey* allows the artist to present and produce major public artworks almost anywhere in the country.

The key aim of the project is to develop artworks in collaboration with communities across Australia. Walsh's artworks are captivating, visually stunning, responsive projections in public spaces; on trees, buildings and rivers. The site-specific works are innovative and transform the banal reality of daily life into fantastic moments of extraordinary wonder. By responding creatively to the stories surrounding buildings and landscapes of each area he visits, Walsh's works become sites of community connection to a shared identity. Using Walsh's extraordinary artwork, *Digital Odyssey* will inevitably capture the imagination of those living, working and visiting regional areas.

MCA Director Elizabeth Ann Macgregor said: "The MCA is proud to be bringing *Digital Odyssey* to rural and remote communities around Australia. Artist Craig Walsh's innovative approach brings new art to new audiences, giving people the opportunity to not only view but contribute to the production and presentation of highly engaging new media artworks which are rarely shown outside major urban centres."

According to artist Craig Walsh the project is a two-way collaboration with the communities he visits: "Digital Odyssey provides a unique opportunity to immerse my practice in regional Australia over a two-year period. Likewise, the remote areas we visit will also no doubt also have a major effect on the future of my practice.

"I am very excited about the creative possibilities arising out of this two year immersion in regional Australia and the potential for the exploration of new forms of engagement with communities and places," he said.

Craig Walsh is best known for large-scale projections that utilise computer manipulated imagery and transform existing environments and contexts. By merging virtual and real spaces, his work encourages people to question their engagement with these sites. This has led to the production of work in diverse

locations including train lines, car parks, shop windows, galleries and historical architecture. He is especially interested in developing cross disciplinary and cultural collaborations. Craig Walsh has been awarded international residencies and has exhibited through Asia working across a range of forms including theatre, architecture, public works, gallery exhibitions and festivals.

For more information about the project, visit www.digitalodyssey.com.au



Craig Walsh *Humanature* 1999 single-channel digital projection Woodford Folk festival, Queensland Image courtesy and © the artist Photo: Courtney Pedersen

National Tour: 2010 – 2012

Murray Bridge, SA:

1 February – 11 April 2010

Alice Springs, NT:

26 April – 16 May 2010

Winton, QLD:

31 May – 20 June 2010

Cairns, QLD:

28 June – 18 July 2010

Mackay, QLD:

16 August – 12 September 2010

Gladstone, QLD:

20 September – 10 October 2010

Gerringong, NSW:

1 – 30 November 2010

Ballarat, VIC:

6 December 2010 – January 2011

Further dates in 2011 to be announced.

For images and interview requests, contact MCA Public Relations Manager, Gabrielle Wilson on +61 2 9245 2434 or +61 (0) 429 572 869. Alternatively, email gabrielle.wilson@mca.com.au.

About the MCA:

The MCA is the only institution in Australia devoted to exhibiting and collecting contemporary art. It is renowned for making art accessible and engaging for a broad spectrum of public audiences through stimulating exhibitions, educational programs and special events. The MCA was voted as Sydney's favourite museum in 2007 by an independent poll conducted by the Sydney Chamber of Commerce. In 2008, it was named Sydney's Favourite Museum in the Alternative Media Awards and was also last year the recipient of a business award from the City of Sydney for best in the Culture, Tourism, Creative and Recreational Services category.



Craig Walsh *Digital Odyssey*: MCA National Media Arts Residency is a national touring Project presented by the Museum of Contemporary Art in association with the artist.



Digital Odyssey has received financial assistance through Arts Queensland from art+place, the Queensland Government's Public Art Fund, auspiced by the Queensland Art Gallery.



Digital Odyssey has received financial assistance in South Australia by the South Australian Government through Country Arts SA.



Valuable in-kind support has been provided by

