

13 March 2021

Sing- a new immersive installation at Bayside Gallery

Sing, is a poetic new work by artist Dr Debbie Symons presenting at Bayside Gallery, Brighton from 13 March – 9 May 2021.

Comprising of 100 handwoven pendant nests containing mini speakers playing pre-recorded tropical bird species songs, *Sing* evokes the delicate and intricate natural connections found in remaining 'wild' environments.



Symons is a participant in the Bayside City Council's Billilla Artist Studio Program, which has given her the time and space to create.

Sing is supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund and is an outcome of Symons' residency at the international Labverde residence in Manaus, State of Amazonia, Brazil.

During the residency, Symons' was enthralled by the Yellow-rumped Cacique nests' precarious suspension over the flooded forests within the Amazon jungle.

The Cacique nests are pendant shape. This form of nest structure is common among many tropical bird species endemic to equatorial regions.

The nests exhibited in *Sing* will be reflective of the Cacique nests, both in texture and colour however, rather than being made of indigenous Amazonian flora, the nests in *Sing* will be created with African palm oil fronds – a plant being cultivated as an industrial, agricultural crop following the clearing of tropical rainforests globally.

Symons completed her PhD at Monash University and is an Associate, College of Design and Social Context, School of Art, RMIT University. Her other works can be viewed at <https://debbiesymons.com.au/>

Exhibition details:

13 March to 9 May 2021

Bayside Gallery, Corner Wilson and Carpenter St, Brighton.

Checking in is a mandatory requirement of entry to the Gallery

Media Release



Quote attributable to artist Dr Debbie Symons:

"*Sing* seeks to explore a sense of wonder and initiate reflection. It questions us to consider the intricate lives of rainforest birds and the rich biodiversity they are part of."

Quote attributable to Bayside Gallery curator Joanna Bosse:

"Symons' installation draws our attention to the precarious future of many of the world's species due to habitat destruction in a way that evokes their unique and fragile beauty" she said.

Quote attributable to Professor Kit Wise, Dean, School of Art, RMIT (wrote the catalogue essay accompanying the exhibition):

"Symons re-speaks the story of these birds, making their voice hers, to remind, warn and share in turn."

Artist profile

Debbie Symons' practice is multi-disciplinary and utilises a range of mediums (drawing, video and installation) to communicate central themes in her work: humanity's complicated relationship with the natural environment, the dynamics of the global political economy and the effects of consumer culture. With a strong research base in contemporary science and the pressures impacting threatened species, Symons collaborates with scientific organisations such as the IUCN Red List to facilitate the statistical data that informs her practice, investigating and revealing inextricable links between sourced data. Completing her PhD at Monash University in 2015, Symons works have exhibited both internationally and nationally.

This project is supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.

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