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DESIGN CANBERRA FESTIVAL 2018

CITY CENTRE GETS READY FOR DESIGN CANBERRA

Splashes of colour are creeping into Canberra's city centre as preparation begins for DESIGN Canberra 2018, which launches in under a month. Artworks, tours, a field of balloons, design forums and pop-up bars are getting ready for installation for the ACT's fastest growing festival, from 5-25 November.

The artwork *Geometric Shadows – 12 Noon* by Yanni Pounartzis, the first installation in the festival's new City Art Program, is taking shape this week on the corner of Petrie Plaza and Bunda Street.

Pounartzis, a visual artist based in Canberra, has responded to this year's festival theme of geometry, capturing a moment in time by turning shadows from buildings, signs and nature into geometric art.

"Yanni Pounartzis' work brings lively colours into our urban environment. As Canberrans and visitors walk past to go to work, or shop, or catch up with friends at a cafe, the artwork invites viewers to take a second look and pay attention to the urban structures that go unnoticed in daily life," said Rachael Coghlan CEO of Craft ACT and Artistic Director of DESIGN Canberra 2018.

Pounartzis' work was selected by a judging panel after a public competition that has resulted in geometry-inspired artworks by 12 artists being presented throughout the city during the DESIGN Canberra festival. Audiences are invited to vote on their favorite work during the festival in a people's choice award to win prizes for them, and the artists.

"The new DESIGN Canberra City Art Program will enliven Civic and place the work of designers and artists front and centre while building relationships between the festival, arts and city businesses. Artworks will be installed in the coming weeks in the lead-up to the festival but the City Art Program is just a taste of what's to come in the city when DESIGN Canberra kicks off on 5 November," said Ms Coghlan.

More than 150 events, exhibitions, talks, tours, markets, artist studios and open homes will be showcased from 5-25 November. The festival is for all interests and ages and most events are free.

Other city highlights include the Museum of Possibilities – a playful art installation by Montreal-based artists Daily Tous Les Jours, which invites Canberrans to share their hopes and dreams for our city centre. It will transform City Hill into a field of balloons for one day only on Thursday 22 November.

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Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre is supported by the ACT Government, the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy – an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments, and the Australia Council for the Arts – the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body.

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Festival goers will also be able to: explore Canberra's inner city design heritage through CBD walking tours; relax after work at the Canberra Centre Design Bar or City Sessions pop-up bars; and explore new visions for the city through the Visible City forums, which bring together international and inspirational perspectives with contemporary case studies in urban renewal.

"We are enormously grateful to City Renewal Authority City Grants program for making possible the DESIGN Canberra City Art Program, CBD design map, Museum of Possibilities and two Visible City forums for this year's festival. Support such as this, and from our network of sponsors and the ACT Government is helping us to realise the festival's potential," said Ms Coghlan.

DESIGN Canberra celebrates and promotes Canberra as a global city of design. Design is in Canberra's DNA. From the time of Walter and Marion Griffin's visionary design a century ago, to iconic experimental modernist architecture of the 1950s and '60s, through to contemporary and sustainable design developments today, Canberra has always been a living design laboratory.

DESIGN Canberra is the primary outreach program of Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre. Craft ACT promotes and celebrates excellence and innovation in contemporary craft and design. Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre is supported by the ACT Government; the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, state and territory governments; and the Australia Council for the Arts, the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body.

Visit www.designcanberra.com.au for the full festival program.

Selected festival programs have been supported by the ACT Government under the City Renewal Authority's City Grants program and the ACT Heritage Grants Program.

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