

MEDIA RELEASE

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sydneyfestival.org.au



Scent of Sydney

WORLD PREMIERE
Cat Jones, Australia



Photo: Cat Jones

As a first impression, smell is one of the most basic forms of identification. Catch a whiff of jasmine over ocean air and sunscreen and suddenly you are transported to a place like Sydney. Sydney Festival presents the world premiere of ***Scent of Sydney***, a free immersive exhibition at **Carriageworks** created by conceptual and olfactory artist, **Cat Jones**, which explores whether you can really know a city by the way it smells.

Using data collected through a series of interviews with prominent Sydneysiders, Jones will blend and compose ten scents at the UTS Science Super Lab to capture the identity and sensory experience of Sydney. The conversations focus on five key ideas of Sydney: landscape, democracy, resistance, competition and extravagance. The scents can be experienced at the installation and audiences are invited to add their own stories and smells.

A program of public conversations invites audiences to contribute to Jones' olfactory portrait of the city by sharing ideas and stories about Sydney's unique identity. From its sophisticated airs to dirty laundry, concepts traditionally limited by politics, history, language and timeworn patterns are opened up and transformed by a new way of thinking – through scent.

Cat Jones is an interdisciplinary artist, writer and researcher with over 25 years' experience. Her practice traverses live, site-specific, installation, audio-visual media and olfactory art forms. The former Artistic Director and CEO of PACT centre for emerging artists Inc; and former Co-Director/Chairperson of Electrofringe has a special interest in audience psychology and immersive, site responsive and participatory artworks. Jones' work investigates gender and sexuality, climate futures, botanic politics, and inter-species relationships through the subversion of social constructs, history, science, language and the senses.

In her previous project, *Century's Breath*, commissioned by Vitalstatistix, Jones created olfactory landscapes from the future to commemorate the Climate Century, awarding her the **2016 Sadakichi (Experimental) Art and Olfaction Award for her efforts**, presented at the **Hammer Museum, Los Angeles**.

Other recent projects include ***Somatic Drifts***, a one-on-one sensory experience and accumulative video installation that enables the participant to experience the bodies of other entities through touch and illusion,

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presented by Perth Institute of Contemporary Art as part of the Radical Ecologies exhibition; and **Anatomy's Confection** a one-to-one social surgery and labour of love about the anatomy and medical censorship of the clitoris commissioned by Proximity Festival and presented at Fremantle Art Centre.

Where	Carriageworks Bay 19
When	7–29 January at 10am - 6pm Not open on Mondays
Public Conversations	10, 11, 17, 18, 24 & 25 January at 6pm–7pm
Tickets	FREE sydneyfestival.org.au/scent

Scent of Sydney is supported by the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW. Sydney Festival and Destination NSW have a strategic partnership that will see three world premieres and four Australian exclusive events presented at Sydney Festival 2017.

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