



Media Release – 17 November 2014

Internationally acclaimed artist Bill Culbert in the spot light



Bill Culbert, *Pacific Flotsam*, 2007. Fluorescents light, electric wire, plastic bottles. Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu. Photo: John Collie.

Acclaimed New Zealand born, France based artist Bill Culbert will bring his distinctive fluorescent and light works to Australian shores in January 2015, presented by the National Art School and Sydney Festival.

Opening at NAS Gallery on 7 January 2015 and curated by Judith Blackall, the exhibition follows the stand-out success of his installations at the 55th Venice Biennale of Art and marks Culbert's largest solo project in Australia to date.

A highlight of the 2015 Sydney Festival visual arts program, the exhibition presents a selection of Culbert's installation and photography drawn from the past 35 years, including the more recent *Pacific Flotsam* (pictured) on loan from Christchurch Art Gallery.

National Art School Director, Michael Snelling said, "It is a great honour to host Bill Culbert's major solo exhibition at the National Art School for Sydney Festival. Bill is widely known for his fluorescent artworks which have been the subject of his recent solo shows in Venice and London; however he is also a brilliant sculptor and photographer."





“This exhibition showcases the breadth of his work over the last 35 years with a total of 27 works on display. I greatly encourage the people of Sydney to come and see this exhibition and discover the innovative, multidisciplinary work of one of New Zealand’s great artists.”

Alongside the eddy of fluorescent light and plastic containers that is *Pacific Flotsam*, visitors can also see *Strait*, a line of milk bottles pierced by a single horizontal fluorescent tube, as well as recent sculptures and wall works. Prompted by the New Zealand pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale of Art the National Art School Gallery activates Culbert’s light sculptures placing the work within the historic architecture of the gallery.

Working with found materials and everyday sources of light, Bill Culbert creates illuminated environments that radiate energy and simplicity.

His art brings elegant formality to the chaos of everyday experience, inviting us to revalue familiar things and focus our perceptions.

Bill Culbert’s exhibition is showing at NAS Gallery from 8 January to 7 March 2015 and is part of the Sydney Festival.

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