

## MEDIA RELEASE

# BALLISTIC BAKED GOODS, BELIEF AND BOTANY AT NEW EXHIBITION HUMAN NON HUMAN

Art, science and speculation converge in *Human non Human*, an exhibition posing the question: what makes us human, and how might humans adapt in the future? Exclusive to the **Powerhouse Museum** from **7 August – 27 January 2019 and opening** as part of the **Sydney Science Festival**, the exhibition is a riveting exploration of humanity's entanglement with non-human agents.

"We're thrilled to unveil *Human non Human*, two years in the making," said **Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences Director of Curatorial, Collections and Exhibitions Peter Denham**. "In exploring what it means to be human, the exhibition provides insights on the collective human experience, as intimate as it is vastly universal. The exhibition is a great reflection on MAAS' commitment to driving, exploring and celebrating the intersections of art and science and features some of Australia's most exciting artists."

Immersive and multisensory, *Human non Human* will merge architecture, design, robotics, biotechnology, chemistry, animism, film and performance across four themes correlating to integral elements of life: **Food, Work, Sex and Belief**. This premiere exhibition comprises four installation works informed by a multitude of scientific fields, devised by four celebrated artists: **Maria Fernanda Cardoso, Lindsay Kelley, Ken Thaiday and Liam Young**.

### **Food: *Ballistic Bundts* - Lindsay Kelley**

How does our experience of eating change with new technologies? In *Ballistic Bundts*, Kelley presents bullet-riddled cakes made from ballistic gel - commonly used as a human flesh simulator in military weapons testing. Her inedible delicacies address the interwoven relationships between food and military technology, and the growing concern of providing food on a global scale.

### **Work: *Renderlands* - Liam Young**

Crafted from discarded digital assets of the animation industry, Young's film *Renderlands* is a thought-provoking investigation into the increased outsourcing of Western animation to "dream factory" render-studios in India. Merging fiction and documentary, the mixed-reality neo-noir film follows an animator falling in love with the character he is rendering, alongside footage of the real places in which these imaginary worlds are manufactured as well as architectural models of these places.

### **Sex: *On the Marriages of Plants* - Maria Fernanda Cardoso**

When it comes to the relationship between humans and plants, who is really manipulating who? Using deep focus photography to capture intricate floral sex organs, *On the Marriages of Plants* explores the beauty, seduction and biological imperative of reproduction. Cardoso draws from influential Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus and contemporary US writer Michael Pollan in this fascinating examination of the critical role of plants on human survival.

### **Belief: *Dance Machines* - Ken Thaiday with Jason Christopher**

Dancer, choreographer and artist Dr Ken Thaiday sr merges ancestral Torres Strait Island marine symbolism with modern materials in crafting automated and autonomous *Dance Machines*. Created with Sydney artist Jason Christopher, these unique creations show the adaptability and resilience of cultural forms in the face of technological development, and the deep histories of body augmentation and transformation.

Complementing *Human non Human* will be a vibrant series of special events. Visitors can sample Lindsay Kelley's edible gelatinous anatomy, stargaze with astronomers on the Sydney Observatory forecourt, escape into virtual reality, or speed-meet a scientist or two at after-hours launch *MAASive Lates: Science* (9 August); learn about hidden floral structures with Maria Fernanda Cardoso in the *Botany Undressed* workshop (11 August); and explore the oscillations of global data with Liam Young in stunning cinematic lecture *Design, Fiction and Futures: the Architecture of Liam Young* (8 August).

*Human non Human* is presented as part of the Australian Research Council Linkage Project's larger research-based initiative, Curating Third Space: The Value of Art-Science Collaboration in partnership with University of New South Wales Art & Design.

### ***Human non Human* Exhibition**

Dates: 7 August 2017 – 27 January 2019

Curators: Katie Dyer, MAAS and Dr. Lizzie Muller, UNSW Art & Design

Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris Street, Ultimo

Admission: Free with general admission: \$15 adult, \$8 concession, kids under 16 years free

An ARC Linkage Project exhibition in collaboration with MAAS.

For full program details please visit <https://sydney-science.com.au/2018/event/human-non-human/>

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Amy Owen [amy@cardinalspin.com.au](mailto:amy@cardinalspin.com.au) P: 02 8065 7363 M: 0404 977 338

Genvin In [genvin@cardinalspin.com.au](mailto:genvin@cardinalspin.com.au) P: 02 8065 7363 M: 0449 939 864

**About the Museum of Arts and Applied Sciences.**

Powerhouse Museum, alongside Sydney Observatory and Museums Discovery Centre, is part of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS), Australia's contemporary museum for excellence and innovation in applied arts and sciences. MAAS has a vast and diverse collection of over 500,000 objects.

**About Curating Third Space: The Value of Art-Science Collaboration**

This ARC Linkage project aims to investigate the importance of art-science collaboration in contemporary research. Developing an innovative method to evaluate aesthetic dynamics, the project seeks to examine how art-science exhibition generates new modes of transdisciplinary knowledge and unique forms of public engagement. The method will be applied to 3 major case studies of art-science exhibition, including but not limited to *Human non Human* in collaboration with MAAS.