

Media Release: Exhibition

Janet Laurence with Ross Gibson: Birdsong



Janet Laurence, *Birdsong* (installation detail)
Object Gallery, 2006

Object Gallery 13 May – 9 July 2006

Invited by Object Gallery to create a site-specific installation for its unique space, artist Janet Laurence has collaborated with new media artist and writer Ross Gibson to present *Birdsong*. Stimulated by a past working relationship and Laurence's research into the ornithological collection of the Australian Museum, the artists address issues of memory, history and science in an exhibition best described as moving.

Laurence's long-held fascination with the natural world is reflected in the 400 bird specimens resting on a large perspex ring suspended at eye level. Her desire to 'bring life' to these figures is represented through the immersive soundtrack, with sonic elements created and composed by Jane Ulman and Phillip Ulman. The result is a breathtaking experience of wonder and engagement.

It is not the first time Laurence has undertaken major installations or architectural collaborations. She is well known for the sculptural installation, *Edge of the Trees*, at the Museum of Sydney, and for *Stilled Lives*, at the Melbourne Museum. Her interest in place, architecture and the environment complements Gibson's studies of history, best seen in his curated exhibition, *Remembrance*, at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne. Their combined sensibilities have produced an unexpected exhibition which takes their collaborative practice in a new direction.

Birdsong is the second in Object Gallery's series of site specific installation projects, following from the pioneering lighting installation, *Adventure*, by korban/flaubert. This annual exhibition series invites artists, designers and architects to create an installation in Object's dynamic gallery space, the Ken Woolley-designed former chapel of St Margaret's Hospital.

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Object Gallery
St Margarets 417 Bourke Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010
Open Tuesday to Sunday
11am - 6pm (Closed Monday)
Tel: +61 2 9361 4511
Free Admission

**SHERMAN
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Courtesy of the artist and
Sherman Galleries, Sydney

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Sound artist: Jane Ulman
Sound Design: Phillip Ulman

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