

PRESS RELEASE

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Melbourne art group DAMP makes its biggest work on behalf of groups

6th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art

Gallery of Modern Art & Queensland Art Gallery

5 Dec 2009 - 5 April 2010



DAMP, *Untitled* 2009

DAMP is one of the oldest art groups in Australia. For the 6th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art it has chosen to make a 6 metre high plinth, for other groups to use.

The work *Untitled*, 2009 is a large, fake marble plinth base of the design usually reserved for historical figures. Instead of dead heroes, the plinth will present living people who make up various local groups from Brisbane.

The groups who will meet atop the plinth include the Brisbane knitters, Probus, Country Women's Association, atheists, men's well being groups, as well as political groups like the Young Liberal National Party and Six Degrees climate action group.

The plinth also encloses a cubby house, which will be used informally by anyone who wishes to be able to spend time inside the structure. It contains personal and group mementos from the life of DAMP.

DAMP said in a statement, 'The Asia Pacific itself is loose grouping of nations, peoples and cultures, so it is fitting that APT6 is curated by a curatorial group, not a lone art expert and that established artist groups and collaborations from the region are included throughout the exhibition.

'At this time in history the idea of historical change is in the air. On the eve of Copenhagen there is much valid questioning about groups and meeting - is conversation and listening possible? Can groups with different backgrounds and interests work together?

'If individualism is exemplified by the hype around the lone creative genius, then the art group can offer an alternative vision, which reveals that almost everything that is human, happens in groups.

'The work invites groups and individuals to meet in real life, in comparison to the massive rise of online social media and virtual communities.

'We hope that people will think about art and their role in the public art institution in a new way. It is likely that visitors will even upload photos to the web or post Twitter comments about their experience from the plinth,' said DAMP.

DAMP was founded in 1995 while several of the current members were studying at the Victorian College of the Arts. It has 12 members, including one who is living in Canada.

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Images

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