

MEDIA RELEASE | June 2016

Gravity (and Wonder) Where art and science make waves 3 September – 27 November

Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest | Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences |
Western Sydney University

Gravity invisibly governs the movement of the world, the shape of space and the flow of time. *Gravity (and Wonder)* explores human fascination with these fundamental aspects of the universe through scientific investigations and artistic explorations.

Marking the beginning of a long-term partnership between Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest and the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS), **Gravity (and Wonder)** is a vibrant three month program with a range of events, workshops and programs extending the themes of a central exhibition. The project collaborators are joined by education partner Western Sydney University, bringing its Penrith Observatory and academic expertise into the project alongside citizen science events to intrigue the community. Eminent astronomer and science communicator Professor Fred Watson AM is the patron of this multi-faceted project.

The **Gravity (and Wonder)** exhibition at Penrith Regional Gallery, curated by Dr Lee-Anne and Katie Dyer, will bring together rare scientific instruments and inventions, specialist objects and archival material from the collection of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences alongside the work of contemporary artists who examine gravity as phenomena and effect, mass and attraction, motion and acceleration, time and space and ultimately transcendence.

Director of the Penrith Regional Art Gallery & The Lewers Bequest, Dr Lee-Anne Hall, said the program was not to be missed.

“In Gravity (and Wonder) Western Sydney audiences can look forward to a three month journey of discovery, where art, science and creativity are brought together in a stunning program including exhibition, education, artist and scientist residencies, performance, public symposium and star gazing.”

MAAS Director, Dolla Merrillees said the project was a true collaboration between the partners.

“Partnerships play a significant role in bringing communities together and creating understanding of the world around us through collaboration. In beginning this long term partnership with Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest we are excited to explore how contemporary art practices can bring new understanding to objects in our collection.”

The exhibition will include sculpture by Richard Serra (USA), installations by Sandra Selig (Australia) and Amy Joy Watson (Australia), paintings by Mabel Juli and Rusty Peters (Warmun, Western Australia) kinetic sculptures by Marley Dawson (Australia), and video work by Hiraki Sawa (Japan). Australian artists David Haines and Joyce Hinterding will drop a sound from the edge of space and document its fall back to earth in a world-first commission which will also be documented through

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an online project.

The Gallery's Lewers House will be transformed into a *House of Wonder*, hosting artists-in-residence working with scientists-in-residence, while the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre will play host to a Gravity Geeks Symposium, exploring the work of artists working with scientists to illuminate scientific concepts and related research concerning gravity. A gravity-defying performance element will also be part of the one-day event, which will be held on 5 November.

The public will also have the opportunity to experience the wonder of the night skies with Western Sydney University's Penrith Observatory (8 October) and in the Gallery Garden (22 October) and via a Planetarium being installed onsite during the Symposium.

On show 3 September – 27 November 2016

Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest

86 River Road, Emu Plains 2750

FURTHER INFORMATION / INTERVIEWS / IMAGES

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Project support

Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest is the inaugural recipient of the Dobell Exhibition Grant, a \$40,000 gift from the Sir William Dobell Art Foundation, administered by Museums and Galleries NSW, with the purpose of developing exhibitions such as Gravity (and Wonder) that provide opportunities for development, engagement and enrichment of audiences, institutions and artists.

Additional support from key Penrith Performing & Visual Arts sponsors Celestino and Penrith Lakes Development Corporation will contribute to the successful delivery of Gravity public programs.

About Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest

Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest is set on the western bank of the Nepean River at the foot of the Blue Mountains at Emu Plains, and was established in 1981 at the former home and property of sculptor Gerald Lewers and painter Margo Lewers.

Within our beautiful heritage setting we aim to develop and maintain a visual arts centre of excellence and diversity for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Penrith, the surrounding region and beyond. The Gallery is open daily from 9am - 5pm and admission is free.

About the Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences

The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, has a vast and diverse collection of over 500,000 objects. It incorporates the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney Observatory and Discovery Centre at Castle Hill. It is Australia's foremost museum for excellence and innovation in applied arts and sciences.

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