



Paris-based artists Lucy and Jorge Orta with heart sculptures made in Adelaide

# Heartfelt display

Artworks resembling parts of the heart, presently on display at the Jam Factory, have taken nearly a decade to evolve.

The exhibition by Paris-based artists Lucy and Jorge Orta includes pieces initially created in collaboration with homeless people in Melbourne nearly nine years ago. They were completed through art workshops with emerging artists in Adelaide last month as part of the Adelaide Festival's Artists' Week.

Lucy says the heart is an important focus area for their practice, making their involvement in the Adelaide Festival, which had the heart as its theme, even more special.

"We had a friend who died waiting for a heart transplant, so our aim has been to generate more interest in organ donations and transplants through our work," she says.

In addition to Melbourne, the couple has held heart-making workshops in Colombia, Greece and Mexico before heading to Adelaide.

Lucy says they have a collaborative approach to making public art.

"We don't believe in creating sculptures or other art that is just put in a public square without consultation," she says. "We want the work to touch on issues that affect the local community."

Last month marked their first visit to Adelaide and through a

workshop with selected students from the partner schools of the Helpmann Academy, they made the hearts using aluminium casting for the first time.

"It's incredible, it's given them an ethereal form," Lucy says.

Lucy Orta was working as a fashion designer in Paris when she met Jorge, who had a background in architecture but was running an arts practice.

For several years she ran separate art and fashion businesses before the couple married and had three children – Leo, Pablo and Emily. Something had to give and for Lucy, it was the fashion.

Since 2005 she has been working full time on the arts practice with Jorge, focusing on social and environmental issues.

With backgrounds in design, Lucy says they incorporate aspects of fashion, sculpture, architecture and interior design into their work because it "attracts different audiences".

One of their more recent projects was a sculptural installation in Antarctica entitled Antarctic Village – No Borders, featuring tents made from flags of many nations.

**Adelaide International 2010: Apart We Are Together is at the Jam Factory until March 31.**



Drop-pots, thrown and distorted terracotta by Sophia Phillips

## Galleries

### PLAYING WITH CLAY

Artist Sophia Phillips describes her ceramics as "objects of anxiety and comfort" and her first solo exhibition explores her relationship with clay, her arts practice and her life experiences.

The exhibition, *Maker in the Made*, will be held at Prospect Gallery in April, and will feature works with titles such as *Squeezes*, *The Spine* and *Drop-Pots* presented on the gallery floor to allow interaction.

Sophia says she uses her exploration of the physical characteristics of clay to play with "the abstract yet familiar, the stilled life of static objects and the pushes and pulls of the making process and life".

**Maker In The Made is at Prospect Gallery, 1 Thomas St, Nailsworth, from April 6 to 25.**

### MEMORY TRIGGERS

*Stone's Throw* is an exhibition of sculptural work by five artists exploring the significance we attach to everyday objects, their potential to trigger memories, stimulate thoughts and imaginings.

The exhibition features pieces by Adelaide Central School of Art graduates Lauren Andersen, Mary Coventry, Kate Benda, Kate Morkuna and Renate Nisi.

Work includes Kate Benda's *A Pile Of Books On The Floor* which uses found and collected books to consider ideas about the power of ordinary objects which enrich our lives while Kate Morkunas' *Wire Drawing 1* is a gentle wire sculpture featuring everyday objects such as wine glasses.

**Stone's Throw is at Adelaide Central Gallery, 45 Osmond Tce, Norwood, until April 17.**

### BEAUTY IN DECAY

Emerging artist John Garforth is showing his photography and printmaking artworks at a self-titled exhibition at Eye2Eye Fine Art Gallery, Unley.

A plasterer by trade and collector by nature, John has an innate interest in the process of corrosion and the beauty and potential of discarded materials. John partly submerges steel plates in water, leaving them to corrode for up to two months, before the shiny metal is transformed as oxidation occurs. The textured surface is then enhanced with coloured oxides and photographed using negative film.

"Rust and corrosion has its own structure, colour and texture... it is something there, around us but we never look closely and see the beauty in it," John says.

**John Garforth's exhibition is on at Eye2Eye Fine Art Gallery, 95 Unley Rd, Unley, until March 30.**

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