

# Jam Factory

STEEL: art design architecture



*Ground-breaking steel exhibition showcasing renowned Australian artists, designers and architects.*

*STEEL: art design architecture* is a major exhibition exploring innovative ways that steel is being used by artists, designers and architects in Australia in the 21st century. The exhibition will tour 15 venues nationally and is accompanied by a 264-page catalogue.

Curated by JamFactory's Margaret Hancock Davis (Senior Curator), the exhibition includes 29 artists, designers and architects from across Australia and brings together products, projects and works of art that reflect many of the current preoccupations with steel within contemporary art, design and architecture in Australia.

Steel is a medium rich in human history. An alloy of iron and carbon, steel dates back to 4,000 years ago and traces the technical and cultural development of multiple civilisations. First forged in hand-made furnaces, steel production and its subsequent use, expanded in the 17th century with the technical innovations of blister and crucible steel. By the 19th century the Bessemer and Siemens-Martin processes heralded in the era of mass steel production.

Today steel is one of the most ubiquitous materials in the world. It inhabits the landscape of our bodies, our domestic spaces and our built environments. A material that ranges from raw and functional to lustrous and decorative – steel blurs the boundary between utilitarian and precious. Its affordability and durability has made it so pervasive that it is often overlooked. Just think of an average day: you may awaken in a house or apartment block whose structural form is made of steel; head to the bathroom where you turn steel taps for a shower under a steel shower rose; next to the kitchen to open your stainless-steel-covered fridge, turn on your steel kettle, and eat breakfast with utensils made from steel; before leaving in cars, motorbikes, trains, trams or buses, over bridges and on tracks, all of which contain some steel.

The exhibitors represent a broad range of approaches to working with steel, and the range of work in the exhibition is extensive – from fine, hand-crafted jewellery to high-tech research facilities. Some of the exhibitors include: the multiple award winning architectural firm BVN, BVN is known for their public architecture having won more Sir John Sulman Medals than any other practice, industrial designers Brodie Neill now based in London and the Bombay Sapphire Design Award winner Trent Jansen for Tait, Contemporary art and design duo Korban Flaubert, leading Aboriginal artists Lorraine Connelly Northey and Gunybi Ganambarr, founding member of the acclaimed Gray street workshop jeweller Sue Lorraine as well as work by the late jeweller Mari Funaki.

The art, design and architecture in an exhibition and publication such as *STEEL: art design architecture* allows us to think upon the links and similarities between the creative processes, problem solving and design thinking undertaken in these various disciplines. It reveals that many of the concerns that drive these innovative uses of steel engage the themes of identity, locality, materiality and sustainability. A material of such great potential, steel influences nearly all aspect of our lives, rendering the ingenuity, craftsmanship and skill of those working with it practically invisible. Through the 29 exhibitors, *STEEL: art design architecture* unearths just some of these possibilities.

#### Exhibition Dates:

17 February – 23 April 2017 JamFactory, Morphett Street Adelaide.

9 May – 19 July JamFactory at Seppeltsfield, Barossa Valley. Touring Nationally thereafter.

#### Exhibitors:

Alison Jackson, Anthill construction, Barry Gardner, Brodie Neill, BVN, Christian Hall, CODA Studio with Mark Philips Architecture, Collins Turner, Cox Architecture with Walter Brook and Hames Sharley, Craig Hiron, Dan Lorrimer, DesignByThem, Geoffrey Nees, Gunybi Ganambarr, Kensuke Todo, Korban Flaubert, Lorraine Connelly Northey, Mari Funaki, Matthew Harding, Maureen Faye Chauhan, Misho and Associates, Oliver Smith, Sabine Pagan, Sean O'Connell, Seaton McKeon, Simon Cottrell, Sue Lorraine, Tony Hobba Architects, and Trent Jansen for Tait.

#### Venues:

**Adelaide** JamFactory 16 February 2017 – 23 April 2017

**Seppeltsfield** JamFactory 13 May 2017 – 16 July 2017

**Redcliff** City Art Gallery 11 August 2017 – 12 September 2017

**Cairns** Regional Art Gallery 22 September 2017 – 19 November 2017

**Hervey Bay** Regional Art Gallery 8 December 2017 – 4 February 2018  
**Brisbane** QUT Art Gallery 11 April 2018 – 28 May 2018  
**Bathurst** Regional Art Gallery 8 June 2018 – 5 August 2018  
**Booragul** Lake Macquire Regional Art Gallery 7 September 2018 – 21 October 2018  
**Dubbo** Western Plain Cultural Centre 2 November 2018 – 20 January 2019  
**Darlinghurst** Australian Design Centre 1 February 2019 – 31 March 2019  
**Wagga Wagga** Art Gallery 13 April 2019 – 9 June 2019  
**Mornington** Regional Art Gallery 28 June 2019 – 25 August 2019  
**Bunbury** Regional Art Gallery 29 November 2019 – 1 February 2020  
**Murray Bridge** Regional Art Gallery 6 March 2020 – 26 April 2020  
**Goolwa** Signal Point Gallery 15 May 2020 – 19 July 2020

*STEEL: art design architecture* is a JamFactory touring exhibition.

*STEEL: art design architecture* is supported by Visions of Australia funding through Australian Government's Department of Communications and Arts and the South Australian Government through Arts South Australia.



Images (from top): BVN, *Australian PlantBank*, 2014, Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan, Sydney. Photo: John Gollings; Maureen Faye-Chauhan, *Cellular brooches* from the Cluster series, 2008. Photo: Janeck Chauhan; Brodie Neil, *Reverb Wire Chair*, 2010. Photo: Marzorati Ronchetti.