

Designed Experience: Creative Collaboration Between Art and Science

Contested Landscapes of Sydney

In September 2011, I sought and received \$80k in funding from The City of Sydney's Art and About, to stage a two-week long art event in a specially designed pop up gallery, at Sydney's Circular Quay, entitled Sydney's Contested Landscapes.

The project, which I designed, curated and co-produced, was a creative collaboration between art and science with creative minds and thinkers coming together to highlight the complex contests for scarce land and resources facing our communities. Some of the topics covered were water quality, land usage, urban development, transport and food security, and involved participatory artworks which engaged the community in baking bread, public painting, music performances, scholarly public lectures and public discussions with local farmers and bee keepers.

A highlight of the event was a participatory art performance entitled, What is a Loaf of Bread Worth. Over two days, artist Robert Guth (ANU PhD) and I baked loaves of bread and offered them to passers-by in exchange for personal items they considered of equivalent value. As part of the artwork these items were then documented and sold on ebay to fund the baking of the bread.

Some other highlights over the 10-day program were the series of public lectures which included: Associate Professor Jane Dixon's Could Climate Change make Australia a Food-poor Country, Professor Tony Capon's Understanding Population Growth and Sustainable Cities in relation to Climate Change, Associate Professor Jon Allen's Agriculture and the Contest for Land in Western Sydney and Artist Peter O'Doherty's Visualizing the Face of Urban Sydney.

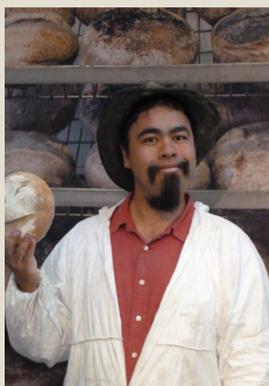
Other feature artists included Joanna Braithwaite, Lucy Culliton, Chris O'Doherty (aka Reg Mombassa) John Reed and Euan Macleod. This project was deemed by the organizer to have been extremely successful, attracting more than 35,000 visitors. As a model this project could be tailored to specific audiences and replicated anywhere in the world.



An active space: public listening to an artist talk



Robert Guth in action baking bread



Robert with happy face



Public trading personal objects for bread



Night action: public lectures, talks and forums



Young artists proudly show off their work



More baking: active participation



Thinking about getting involved: The first step!



Chilling out amongst the action



Early morning studio ready for a day of painting



All weather gallery



Event branding