

# Egyptian Treasures: art of the pharaohs

13 SEPTEMBER – 6 DECEMBER 2009

Come beyond the world you know and experience the mysterious art of ancient Egypt in 'Egyptian Treasures: art of the pharaohs' – exclusive to the Australian Museum for a limited time only.

This spectacular new exhibition will showcase more than 250 exquisite antiquities from the Kunsthistorisches Museum (KHM), Vienna – home to one of the world's most important Egyptian collections.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Australian audiences to discover the timeless beauty of objects and artworks dating from the Predynastic period of 4000 BCE to the 1st century CE, many of which have never before been on public display.

Journey within our breathtaking burial room and marvel at the Mummy of Nekhet-iset-aru with over 2650 year old layers of linen bandaging, as well as three magnificent ancient coffins or 'chests of life', rich with Egyptian hieroglyphs and colourful imagery.

Come face-to-face with more than 30 towering limestone and granodiorite statues and sculptures including a two

metre tall Statue of Sekhmet, Goddess of War and the Sphinx of King Amenhotep III – one of the most significant pharaohs in the 18th Dynasty.

Fall under the spell of the 'Book of the Dead' and explore the mystery and magic of Egyptian jewellery, as well as uncovering funerary items such as canopic jars, amulets, stele (books of stone) and tiny shabti (figurines).

This exceptional exhibition will not only reveal the sacred purpose of these ancient treasures but will also highlight the extraordinary skills of the craftsmen who created these artefacts.

Exhibition Curator, Elizabeth Cowell, said whether sculptors, scribes, tomb artists or jewellery makers, ancient Egyptian artists conscientiously worked to honour their revered pharaohs and seek immortality.

"The art of ancient Egypt is a window to the beliefs that shaped the people and their lifestyle. The Egyptians believed art was a path to eternal remembrance and given our ongoing fascination with Egyptian art and culture, I think they were right," she said.

In a captivating twist, the exhibition will juxtapose ancient objects with contemporary works and visitors will be



encouraged to consider how the Egyptian civilisation continues to inspire modern art.

"The Egyptian design aesthetic is often the source of new work today and with this in mind, it is worth considering how modern design reflects our own lifestyles and beliefs," said Ms Cowell.

The exhibition will feature contemporary works from Dinosaur Designs and artists including John Balint, Avital Sheffer, Simon Murray and Kamila Shepherd.

'Egyptian Treasures: art of the pharaohs' will open for a strictly limited season at the Australian Museum on Sunday 13 September until Sunday



6 December 2009.

[www.australianmuseum.net.au](http://www.australianmuseum.net.au)

Opening hours

9:30am – 5pm seven days a week

Cost

\$22 adults - \$17 concession

\$14 child (5 to 15 years)

\$58 family ticket - (2 adults, 2 children) - FREE for children under 5 years - Exhibition coordinator: Brain Trust Inc., Tokyo



## Applications open for Artist in Residency Program

Marrickville Council is calling on artists from the local area and across the nation to apply for the Local and National Artist Residency Program, which closes on Friday 11 September 2009.

The aim of the Local and National Artist Residency Program is to contribute to the ongoing development of Marrickville Council's relationships with local, regional NSW and interstate artists and assisting local

and national cultural collaborations.

The program provides professional development opportunities for artists while promoting cultural understanding and development in communities. Applications from emerging and mid-career artists of all disciplines are welcomed.

"The Marrickville area has a reputation for being the artistic hub of the inner west, and possesses a certain creativity and individuality that is

infectious to local and visiting artists," Mayor of Marrickville Sam Iskandar said.

"The Local and National Artist Residency Program has been a strong contributing factor to the development of Marrickville's unique artistic character and I encourage artists of all disciplines to apply and experience it for themselves."

Under the program Marrickville Council will provide a self-contained three-bedroom apartment located above the Petersham Town Hall in Crystal Street, Petersham (situated in the Inner West of Sydney) for up to one month. In return for accommodation in the residency the artist will be expected to make a contribution to the cultural life of the Marrickville community.

Further details regarding this opportunity can be found in the guidelines which can be downloaded from Marrickville Council's website: [www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au/community/artsandculture/artistopportunities.htm](http://www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au/community/artsandculture/artistopportunities.htm).

The program will commence in January 2010.

## Report shows strong support for multicultural Australia

A new report shows that migrants born overseas are not considered "un-Australian", the Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, Laurie Ferguson, said today.

"The Monash University report, Perceptions of Multiculturalism and Security in Victoria, will be used by the Australian Multicultural Advisory Council and Australian Government in the development of new cultural diversity policies," Mr Ferguson said. "In this context, the Victorian research on community attitudes is most welcome. "The research shows that Australians define 'Australianness' by behaviour rather than through ethnic origins. 'Australian' behavior is defined as obeying the law, respecting others, integrating within communities and developing a working knowledge of English."

The report's findings come from a group of surveys conducted in metropolitan and regional Victoria, involving some 120 people. "The vast majority of participants believe that multiculturalism enhances Australia economically, socially and culturally," Mr Ferguson said.

"Participants believe Australian identity is fluid and dynamic, are supportive of the nation's diversity, and are optimistic about the country's ongoing potential for maintaining and strengthening social harmony.

"The report reflects public acceptance of diversity as being about all Australians and a preference for a whole-of-community perspective on issues and solutions. This is very positive."

### ELIAS OF THE 16TH PRECINCT

Dir. Nikos Zaptinas - Written by Katia Kissonergi

Alekos Sakellarios' much-loved film from 1959, based on a play by Sakellarios-Giannakopoulos, gets a working over for a whole new generation, proving good humour never dates. Elias of the 16th Precinct follows three friends – Elias, Thomas and Vangelis – who face considerable financial hurdles with their debts rivalling the size of Everest. They decide the only solution is to snatch money from Vangelis' boss, Labros; a cafeteria owner, pawnbroker and fence. While Thomas will attempt the breaking and entering, Elias will be disguised as a police officer – for security reasons, of course. Hilarity ensues as this comedy of errors sends their plan spiralling off in a totally different direction.

Palace Norton Street Cinemas  
99 Norton Street, Leichhardt

Friday 11 September, 9.00pm  
Sunday 13 September, 6.30pm  
Sunday 20 September, 6.30pm