



Hello!

Welcome to 'Lost and Found', an email publication that explores Melbourne's hidden creative spaces and the myriad of interesting events that keep the city buzzing through October and November.

Below you'll find a rundown of the creative places featured in the first issue of Lost and Found to carry as you explore the city for yourself...

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Arts/Culture...

Living Proof

From October 7, the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) presents 'Living Proof' - the first major survey of the work of notorious London artist Gillian Wearing. A signed-up member of the much-awarded 'Young British Artists' (YBAs), Wearing is a contemporary of Tracey Emin and Damien Hirst. She pocketed the Turner Prize in 1997 for her contribution to contemporary visual art practice in the UK. Drawing influence from reality TV, and our terminal obsession with confession, Wearing's works unravel the drama, tragedy and bleak humour played out in the everyday lives of her subjects. Watch out for pieces from 'Signs that Say What You Want Them To Say and Not Signs that Say What Someone Else Wants You To Say', 1992-93 (pictured) and 'Confess All On Video. Don't Worry You Will Be in Disguise. Intrigued? Call Gillian', 1994.

Artist Run, Artist Hide

Melbourne is home to a web of artist-run initiatives, presenting a rich program of exhibitions, installations and performances all year round. Finding them is the first challenge. The best resource available is TheMap: www.via-n.org, published twice a year by Via-n (Victorian Initiatives of Artists Network). It offers a straight-to-the-source guide to contemporary art in Melbourne, and mixes the old with the new. BUS was established in 2001 on Little Lonsdale Street. On the second floor of a warehouse, the gallery has three exhibiting spaces, including a dedicated sound gallery. In October, check out 'No Artificial Flavours' by Estelle Ihasz. 24seven is a 10m by 3m street-fronted window display on Flinders Street in the CBD. Founded in 2002, this gallery encourages socially challenging work that engages with the exhibiting space itself. It's like warped visual merchandising. Blindsight was established on the light-filled seventh floor of the (possibly haunted) Nicholas Building in 2004, it supports contemporary art practice and encourages experimentation and critical discussion among artists. In October see 'Flying for Dummies' by Wanda Gillespie.

Kate Bezar's Arts/Culture

I find that I've just missed a series of screenings at the incomparable ACMI that delved into Robert Altman's film 'Short Cuts'. Having just researched that very topic for the latest issue of *Dumbo feather*, I wish I'd known... Instead I stumble upon a circus troop in Fed Square who perform 31 circus acts in 30 minutes to a smitten crowd. The Melbourne Fringe Festival is coming up and comedian Joanne Brookfield's 'Ten thousand eight hundred words thereabouts, give or take' sounds right up my Scrabble-tally alley. As for the Fringe comedian who dreamed up 'No one lived happily ever after', he needs a dose of Hans Christian Anderson or perhaps he should see The Australian Ballet's Nutcracker this December. I salivate even more when I see that the Fringe programme also includes David Heffron's stand up show titled 'Le geek est tres chic'. Out of the nerd closet we come!

Arts/Culture Stats:

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, 111 Sturt Street,
Southbank. 03 9697 9999. Tues- Sun 11am-6pm.

TheMap online: www.via-n.org

Bus Gallery, 117 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne. 03 9662 2442.

24Seven, 32-44 Flinders St, Melbourne.

Blindside, Level 7, Room 14 The Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston
St, Melbourne. 03 9650 0093.

ACMI, Federation Square, Flinders St, Melbourne. 03 8663 2200.

The Australian Ballet, at The Arts Centre, 100 St Kilda Rd,
Melbourne. 03 9281 8000

Fashion...

Fashion Plus

Sometimes, when you have an amazing retail space, selling clothes just isn't enough. In Melbourne, stores like Alphaville, Someday, All Of The Above and Alice Euphemia realise that retail is equal parts community and creativity. Alphaville, located in both Fitzroy and Prahran stock in-house label Alpha 60, Umbro by Kim Jones and Cheap Monday but have also hosted exhibitions and events such as *Down We Go Together* and the launch of Adicolor shoes. Similarly, the Someday store and gallery houses Bernhard Willhelm, classic Nike, Supreme and house-label Perks and Mini as well as exhibitions from such international designers and artists as Genevieve Gaukler and Kostas Seremetis and locals such as Beci Orpin and Dylan Martorell. All Of The Above, just off Brunswick St, is a shop come gallery come design studio come screen printer run by a group of individuals who intend never to be bored. They stock Little Brother Rebel 8, Rag & Bone and Upper Playground. Last but not least, Alice Euphemia has recently launched its residency program that is part exhibition, part mini-store and part playground for designers such as Romance Was Born, Mala Brajkovic and Elke Kramer 'Alice' also publish *Shop Girl* an e-newsletter with snapshots and features of all that inspires them.

Tried + True

When spending a lot of money, the only shops you choose should be the ones that you trust; where the fashion filtering process is so assured that it's nigh on impossible to buy something you'll regret. Enter Chiodo, Marais, Assin and Christine. All located within a few city blocks of each other, these stores are tried and true to the point that three out of the four don't even need a proper website to attract clientele. Chiodo was voted one of *Wallpaper** magazine's top ten boutiques and stocks Y-3, guerrilla store gurus Comme des Garçons as well as Chiodo's eponymous house label. On the other side of the basement wall is Assin, run by fashion matriarchs the Pinto family (aka The Girls From Ipanema). Assin stocks Dior Homme, Viktor + Rolf, Marni and State Of Design Award shortlist nominees Material by Product and constantly prove that they have mastered the middle ground between classic and contemporary. Down Little Collins hides Marais, a boutique with the hush of a gallery that stocks designers such as Balenciaga and Maticevski for men and Atsuro Tayama and Sharon Wauchob for women. Nearby in a Flinders Lane basement lies Christine, home to Vivienne Westwood among others, and run by former Georges 'accessory buyer' Christine Barro. With purses, jewellery, hats and bags Christine is also perfectly suited to the Melbourne climate by stocking the best range of umbrellas in the city.

Kate Bezar's Fashion

I find myself trying to find the source of a birdsong chorus as I walk into the GPO. Musac? Uh uh, no way. 100 pristine white RSPCA-approved birdcages, each housing a single yellow canary hang from the ceiling. The installation by Melbourne's

'rock star florist' Joost is a sight, and sound, to behold. GPO houses some great shops that I can't find anywhere but Melbourne – Gorman, Fat, and Spacecraft – and some I can like Akira and Camper. I'm not usually one for retail complexes, but even this feels 'boutiquey'. There are also plenty of those. Someday gallery and Alice Euphemia have an artist-in-residence upstairs as well as an eclectic mix of hard-to-find labels. I'm a sucker for a laugh and fell head over heels for a bag at Monk House on Lt Latrobe upon which was printed; "Everyone stay calm, I can do origami and pilates". Melbourne's a city of individuals. It's easy to be individual when you're spoilt for choice.

Fashion Stats:

Alpha60, Level 1, 262 Brunswick St, Fitzroy. 03 9416 4296.

Someday, Level 3 Curtin House, 252 Swanston St, Melbourne. 03 96546458.

All Of The Above, 109 Victoria St, Fitzroy 03 8415 0461.

Alice Euphemia, Shop 6, Cathedral Arcade, 37 Swanston St, Melbourne. 03 9650 4300.

Chiodo, 114 Russell St, Melbourne. 03 9663 0044.

Marais 314 Little Collins St, Melbourne. 03 9639 0495.

Assin, 136 Little Collins St, Melbourne. 03 9654 0158.

Christine, 181 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. 03 9654 2011.

Melbourne's GPO, cnr Bourke and Elizabeth St, Melbourne.

Fat, Spacecraft, Gorman, Akira and Camper – all at Melbourne's GPO, cnr Bourke and Elizabeth St, Melbourne. (03) 9663 0066.

Monk House, 44 Little Latrobe St, Melbourne. 03 9639 2100.

Events...

Of Rice and Men

Ever wondered what 33 tonnes of rice looks like? The 2006 Melbourne International Arts Festival will reveal this and more in its opening show 'Of All The People In All The World: Pacific Rim'— a performance installation presented by British artist group Stan's Café. The show uses one grain of rice to represent each person living in our region. Carefully measured quantities of rice are used to represent a range of human statistics, both current and historical, from city populations to numbers of daily births and deaths. The results can be funny, informative, sad and sometimes shocking. Did you know the number of people who eat McDonalds each day in the world is the same figure as the population of Poland? Stan's Café (pronounced 'Caff') has presented this show internationally, always varying the rice quantity based on regional populations. In June last year they realised their dream of representing the entire world's population, at a festival in Stuttgart, using 104 tonnes of rice. The statistics are always arranged in labelled piles to create an ever-changing landscape of rice. Stan's Café invites you submit your own statistics, to revisit the installation as the festival unfolds, and 'to compare the one grain that is you to the millions that are not'.

Fringe Cuts

It might be fringe, but that doesn't mean it's low-fi. This year, The Age Melbourne Fringe Festival is embracing fancy technology with its huge 'Digital Fringe' project, presented by Horse Bazaar. From September 27 until October 15, Digital Fringe is running a program of international digital art, in a variety of odd places around town. The curated work is viewable on over thirty screens in the city, from the public iHubs to the back room at Loop. At Federation Square, you can text or mms the big screen and see your message transformed into an art piece in real time. The most renegade element in all of this is the 'Mobile Projection Unit' (MPU for short). Basically, it's a van decked out with a high-powered projector, and a wireless internet connection, ready for guerrilla activity. Creative groups including *Is Not Magazine* Citylights, Museum Victoria and the Portable Film Festival will take charge of the MPU each night from dusk til dawn, projecting their own stuff onto the city. Sort of like non-stick graffiti. Check out the live stream at www.digitalfringe.com.au/mpustream.html

Events Stats:

Stan's Café as part of the Melbourne International Arts Festival. From October 12-28, citywide. Check online for details www.melbournefestival.com.au

Portable Film Festival online, www.portablefilmfestival.com

Museum Victoria online, www.museum.vic.gov.au

Citylights online, www.citylightsproject.com

Is Not Magazine online, www.isnotmagazine.org

Melbourne Fringe Festival. From September 27-October 15, citywide. Check online for details www.melbournefringe.com.au

Digital Fringe. From September 27-October 15, citywide. Check online for details www.digitalfringe.com.au

Design...

Design Hub

With its glass walls, the National Design Centre (NDC) at Federation Square, actually resembles a display cabinet. A gleaming showcase created to support leading Australian designers. The NDC is at once a resource centre, a gallery and a retail space and stocks all things creative from guest editor Kate Bezar's *Dumbo feather, pass it on* magazine to local jewellery designer Susan Cohn's 'A piece of Melbourne' badge. You'll also find Abi Crompton's Third Drawer Down and a collection of industrial design objects. The NDC is also home to the Melbourne Design Festival, which trains a spotlight on Melbourne's creativity and design obsession each year, and the Melbourne Design Market (formerly the ReadyMadeMarket) – an irresistible Mecca for Sunday browsers – which will take over the Federation Square car park again on Sunday December 3.

Premier's Design Awards (exhibition)

The competition in the Premier's Design Awards has been fierce and the 2006 exhibition at the Melbourne Museum gives you the chance to view the work of the finalists, while the Winner's Showcase lets you in on the thoughts and processes of the victors. On display will be the modern house disguised as a weatherboard cottage by Jackson Clements Burrows, paradoxical publication *Is Not Magazine*, cutting edge installations from ENESS, Steven (the paper with a personality) from Pip & Co and many other weird and wonderful design innovations.

Kate Bezar's Design

I find that design flourishes everywhere in Melbourne. It is in a tapas menu at Bar Lourinha, in a herd of black-covered books in Aesop in the flock of birdcages in the GPO, the rows of yellow-spined *National Geographics* on Journal's shelves (which, for anyone who studied the geography of the human body within those pages, is bound to bring on a certain nostalgia) and in the National Design Centre (again, no surprises). As much as I'm a word-nerd, I'm also an image-nerd. Metropolis Books indulges both nerds in me to extremes. I'd heard of David Shrigley as his artwork graces a Third Drawer Down tea-towel but I'd never seen his books. I open one titled 'Who I am, and what I want'. He depicts himself lying prostate on an anvil as a hammer descends and writes "I want to be flat". I suspect Shrigley would appreciate Melbourne's topography as much as its typography.

Design Stats:

The National Design Centre, cnr Russell and Flinders St, Melbourne. 03 9654 6335.

State of Design. From October 4-14, citywide. Check online for details www.stateofdesign.com.au

Premier's Design Awards at The Melbourne Museum, 11 Nicholson St, Carlton. 03 8341 7777. From October 5-December 23.

Bar Lourinha, 37 Little Collins St, Melbourne. 03 9663 7890.

Metropolis Books, Level 3 Curtin House, 252 Swanston St, Melbourne. 03 9663 2015.

The City Library, 253 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. 03 9664 0800.

Journal, Shop 1, 253 Flinders Lane. 03 9650 4399.

Cafes/Restaurants...

The Establishments

For two of Melbourne's most established restaurants a rule of thumb is that nothing beats French, even if it's whipped up by an Australian and an Englishman. It seems everyone else agrees. Vue de Monde has consistently earned three Good Food Guide hats and a 'Restaurant of the Year' tag, but hasn't grown too big for its apron. Despite the accolades, the service remains friendly and professional and the food quintessentially French; delicately flavoured but unpretentious. During the week, a two-course lunch with wine sits at a very digestible \$38 – whoever said that price is indicative of quality obviously never scored the chef's table here. Around the corner, the Trust is another institution that takes hint of France and blends it with wider Europe. Woven beneath the majestic pillars of the former Port of Melbourne Authority Building, the bar, café and restaurant doesn't cater for disappointment, or indigestion.

The New Class

When it comes to scoring a well-priced feed mid-city, it's hard to go past the microcosm of cafes, colour, shops and suits that make up Centre Place. No Melbourne sidewalk is complete without a caffeine stop (or five) and Centre Place's answer is Degraes Espresso. Situated right on the laneway entrance, every day baristas power-out lattes, cappuccinos, flat whites and the revered espresso to groggy-eyed passes-by and occasionally feed them with focaccia. If lunch is on the cards, you can't bypass Jungle Juice. Home-made soup, thick chilli con carne, cheeky-kitsch Golden Book menus and soft bagels are all draw-cards. One way to take in all the coffee-swilling, lunch-gorging bustle of Centre Place is from up-above...in Hell's. With a privileged view of life below, Hell's Kitchen proves that sometimes a humble vista can be the most majestic. Nursing a beer, wine or something heavier, the rustic but comfortable interior is a perfect place to chat, or evoke James Stewart *Rear Window*-style and peer down at the oblivious world below.

Kate Bezar's Cafés/Restaurants

In Melbourne I find books everywhere; in cafes, skincare stores, bookstores and libraries –no surprises there I guess. Literary tomes also line the walls at the delicious Mr Tulk café, but then again it is adjacent to the State Library and named after Victoria's first chief librarian. Perhaps the proximity of books breeds good coffee (after all they do make a great couple) because Journal, next to the City Library must also be up there with Melbourne's finest cafes. I can't make a book connection to Bar Lourinha, a superb Portuguese/Spanish tapas bar, other than to say that if the chef ever decides to publish his or her recipes I'll be pre-ordering copies. The shaved artichoke salad is SO worth writing about.

Cafes/Restaurant Stats:

Vue de Monde, 430 Little Collins St, Melbourne. 03 9691 3888,
bookings recommended.

The Trust, 401-411 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. 03 9629 9300.

Degraves Espresso, 23-25 Degraves St. 03 9654 1245.

Jungle Juice Bar, Shop 20 Centre Place. 03 9639 8779.

Hell's Kitchen, Level 1, 20 Centre Place. 03 9654 5755.

Mr Tulk, 328 Swanston St, Melbourne. 03 8660 5700

Bar Lourinha, 37 Little Collins St, Melbourne. 03 9663 7890.

Nightlife...

Water flock

Melbourne can't rival Sydney when it comes to good-looking harbours. But if we're talking a café culture that extends from day into night, the southern city has an edge. Along the winding Yarra River, Riverland Bar and Café has recently popped up fresh as a daisy and ready to take on Federation Wharf. The reformed pump house or 'vaults' has been cleaned out, retaining the industrial feel of its mechanic past but with a warm edge. Outside, elevated benches make the perfect place to doze in the afternoon sun, while gorging on gourmet pizzas and pondering the world from a water's view. A stone's throw away from the Wharf below, The Transport Hotel is three levels catering to your liver, stomach and ears well into the night. If the buzz of ground floor bar Transport is too much, then shoot upstairs to the top floor of Transit Whether for drinks or supper, the venue's soft sloping roof and fusion of jazz, wine and tapas croons "relax".

Alley finks

Away from the water Melbourne's deep alleys swim with bars and restaurants drawing influence from all over the globe. We're a long way from China, but Mao's still managed to make his mark on one little drinking institution (he must be so proud). Set just off Little Bourke, Double Happiness serves up cocktails with kick amidst an interior so red that you should feel angry. Luckily the drinks here are so good that there's no time to fret while downing a house special Mr Fu, which seems more spicy *Tom Yum* than *San Choi Bao* and with mint, ginger and vodka, you'd almost believe that it's better for you than both. Across the other side of town, Japanese bar Robot is more Neo-Tokyo than Little China. Bursting with Japanese pop-culture before it became cool, the lounge-room come bar has long been the choice for the *Otaku* set (super-cool-geeks) and city locals. Asian beer, sake and customised Martini's are the specialty here and every Tuesday night you get to watch a free anime film while you drink.

Nightlife Stats:

Riverland Bar and Café, Federation Wharf. 03 9662 1771.

Transit, Federation Square. 03 9654 8088.

Double Happiness, 21 Liverpool St. 03 96504488.

Robot, 12 Bligh Place, Melbourne. 03 9620 3646.