



SIDNEY MYER FUND

## MEDIA RELEASE

***Trustees of the Sidney Myer Fund announce the inaugural recipients of the Sidney Myer Creative Fellowships for Australian artists, arts managers and thought leaders.***

### 2012 SIDNEY MYER CREATIVE FELLOWS

Görkem Acaroğlu  
Brook Andrew  
Joseph Appiah Kojo Annan  
Natasha Cica  
Ben Cobham  
Robert Cousins  
Sam Fox  
Gunybi Ganambarr  
Finegan Kruckemeyer  
Katie Noonan  
Hannah Skrzynski  
Eugene Ughetti

**From the raw and sacred clan designs of north-east Arnhem Land to the innovative landscape of contemporary theatre practice in Perth, the 2012 Sidney Myer Creative Fellows represent some of the most exciting and diverse artistic practice in the country.**

The twelve artists were selected from over 300 nominations with regard to two criteria, outstanding talent and exceptional courage. The 2012 Fellows include representatives from the performing arts, visual arts and the sphere of thought leadership. Each of the twelve Fellows receives grants of \$80,000 per year for two years, a total of \$160,000.

The Sidney Myer Fund has a long history of providing support to the arts. Starting in Sidney Myer's own lifetime, the tradition of giving continues with these exciting new Fellowships.

"Sidney Myer was a passionate supporter of the arts as well as a great philanthropist, and was actively engaged in his community. The Fellowships support his belief that the arts are inseparable from everyday life, and that a rich society is one that expresses great creative spirit," said Carrillo Gantner, Chairman of Trustees of the Sidney Myer Fund.

"The Fellowships will support artists, arts managers and thought leaders at a critical stage in their career. We hope it will inspire them to great things as their career develops."

The selection panel members for the 2012 Fellows were Neil Armfield (former Artistic Director, Belvoir St Theatre), Helen Carroll (Curator, Wesfarmers Collection of Australian Art), Colin Cornish (CEO, Australian Youth Orchestra), Annette Downs (Producer, Tasmania Performs), John Oster (CEO, Indigenous Art Code), Julianne Schultz (Founding Editor, Griffith Review), Sue Natrass (representing the Arts and Humanities Committee of the Sidney Myer Fund) and Carrillo Gantner (representing Trustees of the Sidney Myer Fund).

More information on the Sidney Myer Fund and The Myer Foundation - [www.myerfoundation.org.au](http://www.myerfoundation.org.au).

**MEDIA:** For interviews and more information please contact Debra Morgan, 03 8672 5551, 0410 592 129 or [debra@myerfoundation.org.au](mailto:debra@myerfoundation.org.au)

## **The 2012 Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship recipients:**

### **Görkem Acaroğlu VIC**

Acaroğlu is committed to making works which reflect the cultural diversity of Australia. In film and theatre, Acaroğlu works in risky and often challenging subjects.

### **Brook Andrew VIC**

A descendent of the Wiradjuri people, interdisciplinary artist Andrew produces works in photography, neon, screen print, mixed media, public art and installation. Andrew has the courage to provoke uncomfortable emotional states and destabilise conventions.

### **Joseph Appiah Kojo Annan VIC**

Ghanian born dance artist Annan brings ideas and intentions to life in support of the local community. Founder of Asanti Dance Theatre in Australia in 2008, Annan is working to create Australia's first Afro-contemporary dance company.

### **Natasha Cica TAS**

Director of the Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society at the University of Tasmania, the former lawyer is a thought leader and public-interest commentator. Through her work, Cica expands our sense of human possibility.

### **Ben Cobham VIC**

Cobham is co-founder of Bluebottle, a small lighting and design company in the arts industry. In the last decade Cobham's practice has merged theatre and architecture to design innovative houses and venues for art.

### **Robert Cousins NSW**

After an early career in graphic design, Cousins has become one of the country's most sought after set designers for theatre and production designers for film. Cousins is described as uncompromising, sensitive, brave and unflinching.

### **Sam Fox WA**

Hybrid theatre artist, dance artist, producer and facilitator Sam Fox has developed a significant body of work. Founder and Director of Hydra Poesis, Fox has a strong commitment to primary research and creative exploration.

### **Gunybi Ganambarr NT**

Didjeridu player and visual artist Ganambarr was born in north east Arnhem Land. His practice has developed from works on bark to use of found objects to create both traditional and innovative sculptural forms.

### **Finegan Kruckemeyer TAS**

Kruckemeyer has had over 50 works commissioned in his nine years as a playwright, predominantly challenging works for children and young people.

### **Katie Noonan QLD**

Better known for her successful music career, as a singer, producer, songwriter, pianist, and composer Noonan is creating new works that bring together artists from across genres.

### **Hannah Skrzynski NSW**

Skrzynski is a Sydney-based arts manager working on cultural projects that connect Australia and China. Breaking down barriers between the two cultures, with fluent Mandarin Skrzynski successfully develops cross-cultural partnerships.

### **Eugene Ughetti VIC**

Percussionist, artistic director, conductor and composer Ughetti leads and facilitates a range of risk-taking and innovative music projects. Founder of Speak Percussion, Ughetti is a champion of Australian music, performing and programming works for the group's performances.