



Media Release

Record crowds attend acclaimed *Supersense: Festival of the Ecstatic* at Arts Centre Melbourne



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, 30 AUGUST 2019 — Arts Centre Melbourne's mesmerising *Supersense: Festival of the Ecstatic* has drawn record crowds across three days of ecstatic enquiry, with **10,865** attendees over **23 – 25 August, 2019**.

In its third iteration, the durational festival created by **Arts Centre Melbourne** with Australian New York-based performer and curator **Sophia Brous** presented a hypnotic collision of music, performance, dance and theatre performances that drew standing ovations across the festival weekend.

The 2019 Supersense festival featured 17 Australian exclusives, 12 Australian premieres, and four world premieres, among various new works and collaborations.

Featuring artists from five continents performing within the underground labyrinth of Arts Centre Melbourne the 2019 festival of ecstatic performance was lauded "*sublimely challenging*", an "*orgy of movement*" and full of "*creative energy*."

"*We are so thankful and inspired by the commitment of the wonderful artists and audiences who were part of Supersense,*" says **Arts Centre Melbourne Head of Contemporary Performance David Anderson**.

"*This year's Supersense was a joy. It was a wonderful excursion into the power of visionary creative ideas, to challenge us, provoke us and draw out the purest states of transcendence, beauty and revelation,*" says **Supersense curator Sophia Brous**.

"*The record audiences, sold out shows and pin-drop hush of audiences in deep focus across the weekend was such a beautiful thing to behold – it was truly magic. I hope all who attended carry the experiences of the shows with them for years to come – as I will.*"

Festival highlights included the Australian premieres of American theatre auteur and icon **Robert Wilson** performing **John Cage's Lecture on Nothing**, legendary free jazz group **The Art Ensemble of Chicago** in their **50th Anniversary** tour with Australian greats **The Necks**, sublime New Zealand songwriter **Aldous Harding** in two sold-out Playhouse shows, a sold-out show from fellow New Zealander and divine troubadour **Marlon Williams** with **The Impossible**



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SUPERSENSE
FESTIVAL OF THE ECSTATIC



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Orchestra, mind-blowing Indonesian ritual trio **Setabuhan** and the electrifying sold-out Friday MAXIMAL program featuring American music enigma **John Maus**, spoken word artist **Moor Mother** and the **Merce Cunningham Centennial Solo** performances.

SUPERDRONE, Supersense's free event presented as part of White Night Reimagined attracted **2,596** visitors on Saturday 24 August. The five-hour, stunning durational exploration into drone music featured Oren Ambarchi, Graham Lambkin, Lucy Cliché, Tony Buck and Chris Abrahams of The Necks, Fred Leone and Samuel Pankhurst of Yirinda, contemporary classical trio Golden Fur and Sophia Brous.

The Supersense total number of attendees for 2019 was **10,865** – an increase of **3,633** from 2017 and **2,397** in 2015.

For more information about Arts Centre Melbourne, please visit www.artscentremelbourne.com.au or phone 1300 182 183. Become a fan of [Arts Centre Melbourne on Facebook](#) or follow [@artscentremelb](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

For further media information and interviews, please contact: Suzanne Robson, Media Advisor on 03 9281 8526 / 0407 443 271 and suzanne.robson@artscentremelbourne.com.au

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