



Media Release

Monday 24 January

The Naomi Milgrom Foundation acknowledges the people of the Eastern Kulin Nations as the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, create and express ourselves. We pay respects to Elders past, present and to the future.

MPAVILION'S FEBRUARY PROGRAM: EXPLORING RITES, RITUALS & TRADITIONS

This February, MPavilion's program of events have been curated around the theme '*Rituals: Marking Life*', exploring how we maintain connection, honour our shared histories and observe important moments in time. Throughout the month, MPavilion will collaborate with more than 50 local and international thinkers, designers and creatives to highlight the rites, rituals and traditions intricately woven throughout our lives.

On Saturday 5 February **Sydney Dance Company** will perform [*Years Choreographed by Rafael Bonachela*](#), presented in honour of former Dance Company Board Member and patron of the arts, the late Carla Zampatti AC. Set to renowned Australian musician Stephen Emmerson's reimagining of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, this live, site-specific performance sees six dancers respond to the essence of MAP studios MPavilion.

Along with a host of impressive creatives taking part this month, MPavilion has teamed up with Melbourne's gelato connoisseurs **Pidapipo** to create an 'MPavilion inspired' flavour that will be available from the Pidapipo ice-cream cart at MPavilion throughout the rest of summer. Inspired by the aesthetics of MAP studios canary yellow design, Pidapipo has created a Passionfruit Granita & Yogurt Gelato for visitors to try. The first event where you can sample the gelato is at [*General Feelings Sound System X Nuestro Planeta*](#) on Sunday 6 February. Two of Melbourne's much-loved music collectives have joined forces to bring a party that promises big sound, community legends behind the decks, and a space for you to move all day, non-stop.

The following weekend will see the [*Australian Youth Orchestra*](#) perform at MPavilion on Saturday 12 February. Featuring music of composers such as **Arvo Part** and **Phillip Glass**, the chamber music performance will showcase works that evoke the cyclical ritual of everyday life, capturing the mood of ritual and routine representative of the daily human experience. Picking up the tempo on Sunday 13 February, [*James Henry x*](#)

[***“The Wall Remix”: Speaking Truths***](#) introduces **Blak** (Carissa Lee), who will reinterpret Pink Floyd’s 1979 rock opera ‘The Wall’ through a First Nations lens to confront systematic structures of domination—including politics, education and the media.

As part of the monthly theme, February will showcase some important conversations around First Nations architecture and design. Join the **City of Melbourne** for [***The Excellent City Series: Design Yarning***](#) on Thursday 17 February to explore the question; how do we see Melbourne as an Aboriginal place? Panel and audience members will be invited to share perspectives of what contributes to the tangible and intangible recognition of Melbourne as an Aboriginal place. Responses from this discussion will be collated and used to inform the council’s ongoing work in acknowledging and celebrating Aboriginal culture in the city.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander not-for-profit organisation [**Agency Projects**](#) will take over MPavilion for an entire weekend on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 February to present [***UNTOLD: Marking Life***](#). The weekend will bring together some of the leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creative thinkers, artists and creatives from across metropolitan and remote Australia to share knowledge and exchange ideas through creative workshops, panel discussions and performances.

On Tuesday 15 February [***RIGHTS of Passage***](#) is a discussion and workshop investigating what a ritual *is* and what are the rituals we create for ourselves? Speakers include cabaret performer **Mama Alto** talking about the ritual of dress, visual artist **Kara Mendel** speaking on the ritual practice of painting, **Kate Ellis** discussing the process of choosing a sperm donor and ‘death disrupters’ **The Last Hurrah Funerals**, who will speak to exiting this world and the rituals we place around this.

For those interested in movement and dance, hear from Melbourne-based performing artists, who each carry their cultural rituals in dance at the panel discussion and performance [***Ritualistic Dances: Their Journey to the Modern Age***](#) on Saturday 5 February. Hosted by **Annalisa Cercon**, speakers will talk about the dances they practice, including their origins, cultural significance and modern-day relevance. Facilitated by creative producer and performer **Feifei Liao**, [***Heart is .Land***](#) on Wednesday 16 February will take audiences on an immersive journey through a storytelling dance workshop which asks questions on the minds of many migrants who have left the places of their birth to live in Australia; can we call the land where we are standing now ‘home’?

Slowing things down, [*PAUSE*](#) with **Helen Herbertson** is a chance to do just that, presented in collaboration with the **Royal Botanic Gardens** on [Saturday 12 February](#), participants are invited to take time to breathe, to notice where they are and listen to their surroundings. Herbertson and team will guide visitors through a simple set of instructions that will take you into the beautiful surrounding parklands with the aim of cultivating a sense of peace that people can incorporate into their everyday lives. For more mindfulness, **Collective Being** will host [Rituals for Being](#), featuring three events on [Sunday 6, 13 & 27 February](#) designed to help you create wellbeing rituals for the everyday.

For those looking for a unique kid's activity, treat your loved ones to the magical cyanotype experience. Facilitated by art therapist **Zoe Arnott**, [Cyanotypes in the Gardens](#) on [Saturday 5 February](#) will take kids on a mindful treasure hunt collecting fallen foliage around MPavilion, which will then be used to print their own cyanotype, an age-old printing process technique commonly used in photography.

Finally, for the design buffs, MPavilion's month-long exploration of public space, [Public Protocols](#), led by international design collective **Space Saloon and Melbourne based Samuel Holleran** will be in full swing. A group of 30 participants will attend weekly online workshops, culminating in a weekend of interventions and installations designed by the participants on [Saturday 26](#) and [Sunday 27 February](#).

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

- MPavilion 2021 is open to the public until 24 April 2022
- For further information on February events, please visit www.mpavilion.org
- Images and Info sheets can be found at the [MPavilion 2021 Media Centre](#)

About the Naomi Milgrom Foundation

Since 2014, the Naomi Milgrom Foundation has enriched Australian cultural life by engaging new audiences with exceptional art, design and architecture. Led by Naomi Milgrom AC, the foundation has become a model for public-private collaboration by enabling new projects with a focus on public engagement, industry stimulation, and education.