# MPAVILION ANNOUNCES ANNUAL UNIFORM & MUSIC COMMISSIONS INSPIRED BY TADAO ANDO'S MPAVILION 10 DESIGN

DNJ Paper, Led by Daphne Mohajer va Pesaran & Jake Nakashima-Edwards, Awarded Uniform Commission; will Create Uniforms in Paper & Linen

Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO continues Wominjeka Song Cycle with 10th Commission





31 August 2023, Melbourne/Naarm, Australia: The Naomi Milgrom Foundation today announced the Uniform and Music Commissions for MPavilion 10, Australia's leading architecture commission and design festival. DNJ Paper – led by Melbourne fashion designers Daphne Mohajer va Pesaran and Jake Nakashima-Edwards – has been awarded the 2023 Uniform Commission. Known for their paper clothing, the collaborative research project and micro-label will design the uniform worn by MPavilion attendants. Yorta Yorta woman Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO, will create her tenth MPavilion Music Commission with a new composition for the ongoing Wominjeka Song Cycle, which will debut at MPavilion 10's opening. Both commissions respond to the design concept of MPavilion 10 architect and Pritzker Prize Laureate, Tadao Ando.

"The Wominjeka Song Cycle is a significant commission which Deborah has grown and evolved in concert with MPavilion over the past decade. Each song sonically represents a particular pavilion; together the cycle celebrates an enduring yet dynamic place and the knowledge we share and create in it," said Naomi Milgrom AC, Commissioner of MPavilion.

"Each year, we are always thrilled to uncover new designers to partner with on the creation of the MPavilion uniform. DNJ Paper was selected for the unique synergies they share with this year's architect. Their combination of natural materials with minimalist structure thoughtfully reflects Tadao Ando's values and ideas."

#### The Uniform Commission

Daphne Mohajer va Pesaran and Jake Nakashima-Edwards of DNJ Paper have designed a work uniform inspired by a Japanese-style work jacket called a samue. Their uniform is composed of a jacket made of green linen with a pink paper vest, made from one large sheet of paper, worn on top. DNJ Paper will produce 35 uniforms of various sizes.

DNJ Paper is using handmade yokono-washi paper made by the family-run papermaking atelier Ueda Handmade Washi Factory based in a village in Okayama, Japan. DNJ has partnered with Yasumasa, a seventh-generation papermaker to custom-make the sheets necessary for the uniforms. The paper's pulp is made from the inner bark of the Mitsumata tree, sourced locally from the mountains around the workshop. Mitsumata paper is naturally off-white, so DNJ is dying the paper a rich pink using dye extracted from deadstock red polo shirts. Each MPavilion 10 uniform will use one full sheet of paper measuring approximately 60 x 90cm; this will then be dyed, stitched, waxed with Australian beeswax and finally heated in a custom-built oven to evenly distribute the wax and make it durable and water-resistant.

"Being selected for this commission is an immense honour," said Mohajer va Pesaran and Nakashima-Edwards of DNJ Paper. "Our design choices respond carefully to Tadao Ando's architectural concept. Some elements, such as the vest's circular area with adjustable strap, were created in response to the forms in the pavilion. We chose light-weight linen to counter the concrete and wrinkled, waxed paper to bring a different texture to the space. We selected bright colors for the uniform in consideration of the light grey walls, incorporating garden colors inside the structure."

### The Music Commission

Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO is a Yorta Yorta woman, soprano, composer and Artistic Director of Short Black Opera. Since MPavilion's inception in 2014, she has composed a contemporary musical expression of welcome in the traditional language of Bunjil's River Country to open the MPavilion season. With each original work, Cheetham Fraillon responds to the MPavilion architect's vision and design. She will create the tenth composition for the Wominjeka Song Cycle, which will be performed with the Dhungala Children's Choir – the leading choral performance group for Indigenous children in Victoria.

"Ten years ago, Naomi Milgrom AC invited me to write the opening song for the first MPavilion and, in doing so, embedded a First Nations voice in this visionary project. With the guidance and deep knowledge of N'Arweet Aunty Carolyn Briggs AM, the Wominjeka Song Cycle has been a deeply considered continuous journey as I have responded each time to a new design, a new architectural voice," said Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO. "Every MPavilion invites us to consider our sense of place and cultural knowledge through song in a location where knowledge has been transferred and culture has been lived for 70,000 years."

Website | Instagram | Imagery

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### **About DNJ Paper**

DNJ Paper is a collaborative research project and micro-label led by designers Daphne Mohajer va Pesaran and Jake Nakashima-Edwards. The project employs a range of techniques, both traditional and non-traditional, to create paper clothing, accessories and objects.

Its creations aim to address pressing social, aesthetic and conceptual questions related to fashion and textiles design. Paper is at the centre of their work; they use handmade recycled rag paper, produced in their studio, as well as handmade Japanese paper, also known as washi. The washi is sourced from small studios located throughout Japan and each sheet comes with comprehensive information on the conditions of its production.

DNJ Paper is currently artist-in-residence in the Atelier Program facilitated by BETA STHBNK, and has held workshops at MPavilion, Melbourne Fashion Festival and the Australian Tapestry Workshop. They sell their work internationally and have exhibited at Craft Victoria, the Melbourne School of Design, the Australian Tapestry Workshop and Melbourne Design Week.

#### About Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO

Professor Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO is a Yorta Yorta woman, soprano, composer and Artistic Director of Short Black Opera. She has been a leader and pioneer in the Australian arts landscape for more than 25 years. In the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honours List, she was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO).

Cheetham Fraillon has been composer-in-residence for the MPavilion opening ceremony since the project's inception in 2014. Her list of commissions for major Australian ensembles includes works for the Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and West Australian Symphony Orchestras; the Australian String Quartet; Rubiks Collective, the Sydney Philharmonia; Plexus Collective; the Flinders Quartet; and the Goldner Quartet. Awards and acknowledgements include: the Sir Bernard Heinze Memorial Award for service to music in Australia; the Merlyn Myer Prize for Composition; induction onto the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll and Women's Honour Roll of Victoria; Melbourne Recital Centre Lifetime Membership; the 2019 Melbourne Prize for Music; Limelight Magazine's Critics Choice Artist of the Year; and The Helpmann JC Williamson award for lifetime service to the arts. In 2020, Cheetham Fraillon was the 2020 composer-in-residence for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and commenced her appointment at the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, Monash University as Professor of Music Practice. In 2021, she began a five-year term as First Nations Chair of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. In February 2023, Cheetham Fraillon commenced as the inaugural Elizabeth Todd Chair of Vocal Studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

### About Naomi Milgrom AC & the Naomi Milgrom Foundation

The Naomi Milgrom Foundation champions art, design and architecture that improves Australian lives – empowering creation, collaboration and education. Established in 2014 by Naomi Milgrom AC, the not-for-profit organisation pivots on a central purpose: to enhance the presence and influence of creative culture in Australia. This is accomplished through the active support of artists, designers and creative institutions; the fostering of collaborations between bodies and disciplines; the promotion of art and design education; and an overarching commitment to increasing access to the arts. The Naomi

Milgrom Foundation's ongoing flagship projects include MPavilion and the Living Cities Forum. It proudly supports extraordinary projects with extraordinary creators that would otherwise not be realised, spanning architecture and urban design fora; art, design and music commissions; art and design exhibitions; education, research and publication projects; dance and music performances; First Nations cultural projects; and theatre productions.

Naomi Milgrom AC is an Australian business leader, fashion entrepreneur, philanthropist and arts patron with an international reputation for initiating and supporting cultural innovation. In 2020, she was awarded the country's highest honour – the Companion of the Order of Australia – for eminent service to the community through philanthropic leadership and support for the promotion of the arts.

#### About MPavilion

MPavilion is Australia's leading architecture commission: a place for debate around the design of today and tomorrow. Conceived and created by Naomi Milgrom AC as an initiative of the Naomi Milgrom Foundation, MPavilion celebrates a decade as the country's cultural laboratory in 2023 Since 2014, the Naomi Milgrom Foundation has invited extraordinary architects from Australia and across the world to design a meeting place for the Queen Victoria Gardens in Melbourne's heart. From this MPavilion, a five-month design festival of free events is launched – prompting locals and visitors alike to consider how architecture, art and design can change lives. When its season draws to a close, the Naomi Milgrom Foundation gifts each MPavilion to the people of Victoria – relocating it to a permanent home in the community where it can remain as a catalyst for conversation.

In its first decade, MPavilion has become one of Australia's most anticipated design festivals — attracting over 1,250,000 visitors, with 350,000 in 2022 alone. Accessible and open, MPavilion is both of and for the community: hosting 3,400 events with 4,000 individuals and organisations during this period. MPavilion's myriad collaborations are a testament to Melbourne's status as a local and global centre of design. Its ambitious program is made possible through the visionary support of its partners, principally the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, the City of Melbourne, ANZ and Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Since its inception, MPavilion has won or been shortlisted for over 40 national and international architecture and design awards, including: Winner, Public Space, International Architecture Awards (2023); Jury Winner, Architecture+Colour, Architizer A+Awards (2023); Winner, Excellence in Community Engagement, Urban Developer Awards for Industry Excellence (2022); Winner, Architectural Design – Urban Design & Public Spaces, Good Design Awards (2019); Winner, Landscape Architecture Award, Australian Institute of Landscape Awards (2018); World's Top Temporary Structures, Designboom (2016); Winner, Detail Prize (2016).

Past architects include: Rachaporn Choochuey, all(zone), Thailand (MPavilion 9); Francesco Magnani & Traudy Pelzel, MAP studio, Italy (MPavilion 8); Glenn Murcutt AO, Australia (MPavilion 6); Carme Pinós, Estudio Carme Pinós, Spain (MPavilion 5), Rem Koolhaas & David Gianotten, OMA, Netherlands (MPavilion 4); Bijoy Jain, Studio Mumbai, India (MPavilion 3); Amanda Levete, AL\_A, United Kingdom (MPavilion 2); Sean Godsell, Sean Godsell Architects, Australia (MPavilion 1).