



40 YEARS
KALDOR PUBLIC
ART PROJECTS

1961–2009 WORLD EVENTS TIMELINE

ART
GALLERY
NSW

1960s

The 1960s was an era of political upheaval and cultural experiment. Visual artists struggled to make an impact on a world preoccupied with social crisis – the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War and the counterculture – and sought a variety of responses to this public turmoil.

As the 1960s progressed, artists internalised the issues raised by the politics of protest, and devised visual languages of provocation and dissent to attack the institutions of cultural power. In happenings, in the Situationist International and in the Fluxus group, artists worked together in novel ways, inventing new forms of collaboration and erasing the distinction between performance and visual art. The role of the artist in society was rethought, while established notions of content, style, medium and audience were challenged.

1961

Berlin Wall built

John F Kennedy becomes US President

Henry Flynt coins the term 'concept art'

Fluxus formed

Harald Szeemann appointed curator of Kunsthalle, Bern

Christo and Jeanne-Claude first conceive plans for wrapping a public building

Transfield Art Prize established in Australia by Franco Belgiorno-Nettis, running until 1970

1962

Marilyn Monroe dies

Bob Dylan records the song 'Blowin' in the wind'

Cuban Missile Crisis brings the US and USSR to the brink of nuclear conflict

Australia's involvement in Vietnam War begins

Algerian war protests in Paris

Andy Warhol opens his New York studio, The Factory

Fluxus festival held in Wiesbaden, Germany

Christo and Jeanne-Claude realise *Wall of Oil Barrels*, *Rue Visconti*, Paris 1961–62

1963

US President John F Kennedy assassinated

Martin Luther King Jr makes his 'I have a dream' speech for civil rights at the March on Washington

Marcel Duchamp retrospective held at Pasadena Art Museum, California

Joseph Beuys performs his first two public actions with Fluxus

Robert Morris' *Cardfile* anticipates conceptual art

Art & Australia quarterly magazine established

1964

Beatlemania reaches its height

Japan's bullet train launched

Cassius Clay (later known as Muhammad Ali) wins heavyweight boxing title

Marshall McLuhan publishes the book *Understanding media*

Robert Rauschenberg wins the grand prize for painting at Venice Biennale, signalling American ascendancy over European art

1965

African-American leader
Malcolm X assassinated

Richard Wollheim coins the
term 'minimalism' in his essay
'Minimal art'

Donald Judd publishes the
essay 'Specific objects'

Carl Andre's first solo exhibition
opens at the Tibor de Nagy
Gallery, New York

Joseph Kosuth creates the
conceptual work *One and
three chairs*

1966

Mao's Cultural Revolution
begins in China

Release of film *Blow up*,
directed by Michelangelo
Antonioni

Truman Capote publishes the
true-crime book *In cold blood*

Star Trek series debuts on
US TV

Primary structures exhibition,
Jewish Museum, New York

'Arte povera' prefigured in
an exhibition in Turin, Italy

Dan Graham publishes his
new artwork *Homes for America*
in *Arts Magazine*

Central Street Gallery
established in Sydney

Alcorso-Sekers Travelling
Scholarship established for
young Australian sculptors

1967

Israel and Egypt fight the
Six Day War

Christiaan Barnard performs
the first human heart transplant

Aretha Franklin records the song
'Respect'

Australian Prime Minister
Harold Holt disappears

First portable video recording
device, Sony Portapak,
introduced

Sol LeWitt publishes the essay
'Paragraphs on conceptual art'

Michael Fried publishes the
essay 'Art and objecthood'

Germano Celant coins the
term 'arte povera'

Power Department of Fine Arts
set up at the University of
Sydney

Cite International des Arts
residency in Paris available
for Australian artists

1968

Students riot in Paris

Martin Luther King Jr
assassinated

Release of film *2001: a space
odyssey*, directed by Stanley
Kubrick

Christo and Jeanne-Claude
wrap the Kunsthalle, Bern

Sol LeWitt creates his first
wall drawing

Richard Long exhibition held
at Galerie Konrad Fischer,
Dusseldorf

Donald Judd exhibition held
at Whitney Museum of
American Art

Clement Greenberg gives the
John Power Lecture in
Contemporary Art, University of
Sydney, 'Avant-garde attitudes'

National Gallery of Victoria,
Melbourne, exhibits *The field*

Elwyn Lynn appointed curator
of the Power Gallery of
Contemporary Art, University
of Sydney

Australia Council established,
introducing government funding
for the arts in Australia

1969

Woodstock three-day music
festival held in the US

Neil Armstrong becomes first
man to walk on the moon

Millions march in Vietnam
moratorium protests in the US

Monty Python's *Flying Circus*
series debuts on UK TV

Sesame Street series debuts
on US TV

Gilbert & George first present
The Singing Sculpture, in
London

First issue of *Art-Language*:
The Journal of Conceptual Art
published

Sol LeWitt publishes the essay
'Sentences on conceptual art'

Joseph Kosuth publishes the
essay 'Art after philosophy'

Harald Szeemann's first
exhibition of conceptual art in
Europe, *Live in your head: when
attitudes become form*, opens
at the Kunsthalle, Bern

1st Kaldor project: Christo and
Jeanne-Claude create *Wrapped
Coast* at Little Bay in Sydney
and *Wool Works* at the National
Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne,
while an exhibition of Christo's
drawings and collages is held at
Central Street Gallery

1970s

The 1970s saw, in addition to the war protests and civil rights struggle, the rise of feminism and environmental activism, the growth in popularity of Eastern religions in the West, and further widespread sexual experimentation. Born of recessionary, disenchanted times, in the art world, open rebellion seemed to be the name of the game in many quarters. Some artists stopped making art altogether as they became more and more enthralled by art theory. Other artists founded alternate practices apart from commercial galleries and art museums. Some presented ephemeral installations and performances, often documented by photography. A few turned to newly available video technologies as a way of breaking away from traditional media, while many others chose to make artworks that could be reproduced as cheaply as possible, so that art would no longer be a commodity for the privileged few.

Interactive art developed, and public art, community projects and artists collectives proliferated. In Australia, figurative artists Jeffrey Smart, Charles Blackman, Robert Dickerson and Donald Friend were in ascendance, and a new generation of performance artists was emerging, including Ken Unsworth, Mike Parr, Tim Johnson, Philippa Cullen and Jill Orr.

1970

Four student protesters shot dead by the National Guard at Kent State University, US

Germaine Greer publishes the book *The female eunuch*

The Beatles break up

Mike Parr and Peter Kennedy co-found Inhibodress Gallery, Sydney

Donald Brook gives the John Power Lecture in Contemporary Art, University of Sydney, 'Flight from the object'

Robert Morris interactive exhibition opens at Tate Gallery but closes early due to over-enthusiasm of visitors

Conceptual art, arte povera, land art exhibition held at Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna, Turin, Italy

John Kaldor launches his textiles company John Kaldor Fabricmaker

1971

The microprocessor – the foundation for today's computers – is introduced

Greenpeace founded

Jerzy Kosinski publishes *Being there*, his satirical novel on TV viewing

Hans Haacke's exhibition about real-estate ownership cancelled by New York's Guggenheim Museum

Artist Chris Burden has himself shot in the arm with a 22-calibre rifle five times for *Shoot piece*

Geoffrey Bardon encourages the Aboriginal people of Papunya to paint a mural and then on canvas, leading to the Papunya Tula art movement

2nd Kaldor project: Harald Szeemann curates the exhibition *I want to leave a nice well-done child here* at Sydney's Bonython Gallery and Melbourne's National Gallery of Victoria

1972

Release of film *The godfather*, directed by Francis Ford Coppola

First watch produced with digital display

Alex Comfort publishes the illustrated sex manual *The joy of sex*

Harald Szeemann directs *documenta 5*, seen as the most pioneering of his Kassel extravaganzas

A Labor government, led by Gough Whitlam, elected in Australia after 23 years of Liberal power

Earthworks Poster Collective established in Sydney

1973

US troops pull out of Vietnam
Patrick White wins Nobel Prize for Literature

Sydney Opera House opens
Mobile phone invented

Lucy Lippard publishes the book *Six years: the dematerialization of the art object 1966 to 1972*

Walter Benjamin's influential 1936 essay 'The work of art in the age of mechanical reproduction' published in English

National Gallery of Australia controversially buys Jackson Pollock's *Blue poles*

First Biennale of Sydney held at the Sydney Opera House Gallery

3rd Kaldor project: Gilbert & George present *The Singing Sculpture* and exhibit *The Shrubberies* at the Art Gallery of NSW and Melbourne's National Gallery of Victoria

4th Kaldor project: Miralda creates *Coloured feast* at the John Kaldor Fabricmaker showrooms in Sydney and *Coloured bread* at the Art Gallery of NSW

1974

Heiress Patty Hearst kidnapped by Symbionese Liberation Army

Punk rock emerges in UK

US President Richard Nixon resigns following the Watergate scandal

Cheap pocket calculators introduced

Beverly Johnson becomes the first black model on the cover of *Vogue* or any other major fashion magazine

International conference on video art held at the Museum of Modern Art, New York

EAF: Experimental Art Foundation established by Dubliner Noel Sheridan

1975

North Vietnamese enter Saigon, ending the war in Vietnam

Civil war in Lebanon

Release of US film *Jaws*, directed by Steven Spielberg, often seen as the mother of summer blockbusters

Tom Wolfe publishes his book on the American space program, *The right stuff*

Bill Gates and Paul Allen found Microsoft

The Altair becomes the first widely available personal computer, running Microsoft's BASIC software

First exhibition of graffiti art held at Artist's Space, New York

Australia's Governor-General dismisses Gough Whitlam as prime minister

Liberal Party, led by Malcolm Fraser, wins Australian election

Alexander Mackie College of Advanced Education established in Paddington, Sydney

1976

Apple Computers founded by Steve Jobs and Stephen Wozniak

Dolby Stereo systems introduced into cinemas

Queen Elizabeth II sends an email message

Release of US film *Taxi driver*, directed by Martin Scorsese

ABC radio serial *Blue Hills* ends after 32 years

Brett Whiteley wins the Archibald Prize with *Self portrait in the studio*

Christo and Jeanne-Claude's *Running Fence* installed in California

Biennale of Sydney, *Recent international forms in art*, artistic director Thomas G McCullough

5th Kaldor project: Charlotte Moorman and Nam June Paik present *Moorman + Paik* in various venues in Adelaide and Sydney, including the Art Gallery of NSW

1977

Elvis Presley found dead

Release of *Star Wars*, directed by George Lucas, launching the epic film franchise

Disco music becomes the rage

Train derailment in the Sydney suburb of Granville kills 83 people

Walter de Maria installs *The New York earth room* in New York and *The lightning field* in New Mexico

Exhibition of earth art opens at the Hirschorn Museum, Washington DC

The work of Australian landscape painter Fred Williams exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, New York

6th Kaldor project: Sol LeWitt's *Wall drawings* installed at the Art Gallery of NSW and Melbourne's National Gallery of Victoria

7th Kaldor project: Richard Long creates *A straight hundred mile walk in Australia* and *A line in Australia near Broken Hill* as well as *Bushwood circle* at Melbourne's National Gallery of Victoria and *Stone line* at the Art Gallery of NSW

1978

World's first test-tube baby born
Reverend Jim Jones leads his cult's mass suicide at Jonestown

SBS Radio formally established in Australia to provide multilingual and multicultural broadcasting

First point-and-shoot auto-focus cameras available

Rosalind Krauss publishes her essay 'Sculpture in the expanded field'

Two New York exhibitions, *New image painting* and *Bad painting*, signal renewed interest in easel painting

First Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras march

Sol LeWitt retrospective exhibition held at the Museum of Modern Art, New York

1979

Margaret Thatcher becomes the first woman prime minister of Britain

First gay and lesbian civil rights march held in Washington DC

Major nuclear accident occurs at Three Mile Island, New York

Rap music goes beyond the streets of New York City

Release of film *Apocalypse now*, directed by Francis Ford Coppola

David Ireland's novel *A woman of the future* wins the Miles Franklin Award

Judy Chicago's *The dinner party* first displayed at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

Vivienne Binns begins her community participation project *Mothers' memories, others' memories*

Redback Graphix established, responsible for some of Australia's most striking poster art of the 1980s and '90s

Biennale of Sydney, *European dialogue*, artistic director Nick Waterlow

1980s

The 1980s saw an international art-market boom and contemporary artists, such as Julian Schnabel, Robert Longo and David Salle, seemed to break into gallery stardom direct from art school. Painting made a comeback after the conceptual and minimalist eras. Emerging styles included neo-geo, neo-expressionism and graffiti, while movements with roots in the '60s and '70s, such as public art, feminist art and artist-run spaces, continued to grow in importance. The period's vastly influential signature method was appropriation: the imitation of existing images to sabotage and/or revel in their rhetorical contrivance. Art shared DIY attitudes inspired by punk rock, in night-life venues, and, in academia, with deconstruction. Soap stars became pop stars, pop stars became politicians, comics became graphic novels, and a Soviet leader became a hero.

1980

Actor Ronald Reagan elected US President

John Lennon assassinated in New York City

CNN 24-hour news channel begins reporting

SBS Television begins broadcasting in Australia

Green Party formed in Germany to politicise ecological issues

First close-up photographs of the rings around Saturn

Sony Walkman portable cassette-player starts a fad

Anselm Kiefer represents Germany at the Venice Biennale

Whitney Museum buys Jasper Johns' *Three flags* for US\$1 million, the most paid to that time for work by a living artist

1981

Prince Charles marries Lady Diana Spencer

Xerox first markets a mouse as an integrated part of a personal computer

MTV 24/7 music-video channel launched

Men at Work release their worldwide hit single *Down under*

Population of Australia reaches 15 million

Peter Carey's novel *Bliss* wins Miles Franklin Award

Paul Taylor founds the Australian journal *Art & Text*

Richard Serra installs his controversial sculpture, *Tilted arc*, in a New York public plaza

Jeff Koons exhibits unused vacuum cleaners under plexiglas at the Museum of Modern Art, New York

A new spirit in painting exhibition at the Royal Academy, London, reviews the state of painting

First Australian Perspecta, a biennial event showcasing local contemporary art (until 2000)

1982

Release of US film *ET*, directed by Steven Spielberg

Michael Jackson releases *Thriller*, the biggest-selling album in history

AIDS named

Gabriel Garcia Marquez wins Nobel Prize for Literature

Italian neoexpressionist movement known as the Transavanguardia kicks off

Maya Linn's initially controversial, now admired Vietnam War Memorial opens in Washington

First Australian Sculpture Triennial (held until 1999)

Popism exhibition held at National Gallery of Victoria

New National Gallery of Australia building opens in Canberra

Biennale of Sydney, *Vision in disbelief*, artistic director Bill Wright

1983

TIME magazine names the computer as 'Man of the Year'

US announces a missile defence plan called Star Wars

Jean Baudrillard and Hal Foster publish seminal treatises on postmodern theory

Richard Serra exhibition held at Centre Pompidou, Paris

Serge Guilbaut publishes the book *How New York stole the idea of modern art*

Former union leader Bob Hawke becomes Prime Minister of Australia

Australia becomes the first country to win yachting's America's Cup from the US

1984

Apple Mac introduced with the Macintosh 128k

CD-ROM introduced

World's worst industrial disaster: a poison gas leak from the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal, India

William Gibson coins the term 'cyberspace' in his novel *Neuromancer*

Joseph Beuys creates the work *I like America and America likes me*

Surfwear company Mambo established, with strong graphics and self-deprecating Australian humour

Historic *Futur*Fall: Excursions into Postmodernity* conference held at the University of Sydney

Australia's National Association for the Visual Arts established

Biennale of Sydney, *Private symbol: social metaphor*, artistic director Leon Paroissien

8th Kaldor project: The work of three mid-career Australian artists – Mike Parr, Imants Tillers and Ken Unsworth – is exhibited in *An Australian Accent* at New York's P.S.1 gallery, followed by Washington DC's Corcoran Gallery of Art, Perth's Art Gallery of Western Australia and the Art Gallery of NSW

1985

USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev calls for reforms in the Soviet Union

Scientists announce discovery of hole in the ozone layer over the Antarctic

Worldwide mass communication helps Live Aid concert raise famine aid for Ethiopia

Desktop publishing emerges as a force

Rupert Murdoch sets up Fox TV network in the US

Soapie *Neighbours* makes its Australian TV debut

Austrade established to help export Australian business to the world

Guerrilla Girls stage actions against sexism and racism in the art world

Gregor Schneider begins *Totes Haus Ur* (Dead house ur) in Germany

5/5: Fünf vom Fünften exhibition, featuring Australian artists including Mike Parr and Ken Unsworth, held at daadgalerie, Berlin

The British show exhibition, curated by Anthony Bond, tours Australia and New Zealand

1986

Challenger space shuttle explodes

Chernobyl nuclear accident leads to the evacuation of 135 000 people in the USSR

Nintendo introduce hand-held Game Boy

Australian film *Crocodile Dundee*, starring Paul Hogan, becomes a smash hit worldwide

Art Spiegelman publishes the first volume of his *Maus* comic book about the Holocaust

Basquiat, Haring, Schnabel and Warhol install artwork at New York nightclub Area

Bill Viola makes his video *I Do Not Know What It Is I Am Like*

Imants Tillers represents Australia at the Venice Biennale

Marc Newson's first solo exhibition, at Sydney's Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, includes his Lockheed lounge

Absolutely Mardi Gras: Costume and Design of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum

Biennale of Sydney, *Origins, originality + beyond*, artistic director Nick Waterlow

1987

World population hits 5 billion

Black Monday stockmarket crash

Margaret Thatcher re-elected for third term as British Prime Minister

First forensic use of DNA in a criminal case

First mobile-phone call in Australia

Release of film *Wall Street*, directed by Oliver Stone, featuring Gordon Gecko's 'Greed is good' speech

The Simpsons introduced on *The Tracey Ullman Show* on US TV

Irises by Vincent van Gogh sells at auction for US\$53.9 million

New Australian cross-media ownership laws force the sale of Seven Network

1988

George Bush elected US President

First computer-virus crime reported

Salman Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses* causes outrage among Muslims

Imparja Television starts broadcasting to remote Central Australia via satellite

Australia celebrates its bicentenary and New Parliament House opens in Canberra

Darling Harbour and Powerhouse Museum open in Sydney

Art Gallery of NSW's new Captain Cook wing opens

Panza collection of minimal art shown in Paris and Geneva

'Unofficial' Soviet art begins to appear in US exhibitions

Jeff Koons makes his *Banalities* series of ceramic figures including *Michael Jackson and Bubbles*

Biennale of Sydney, *From the Southern Cross*, artistic director Nick Waterlow

1989

Berlin Wall falls – a symbolic end to the Cold War

Tiananmen Square massacre in China

Exxon Valdez tanker causes the world's largest oil spill

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) formed with key nations from the region

Seinfeld, a show about nothing, starts its ten-year run on US TV

Australian Design Summit held in Canberra

Disposable cameras introduced

Andres Serrano creates his photograph *Piss Christ*, featuring a crucifix immersed in urine

Jeff Koons begins his *Made in Heaven* series of sexually explicit images of himself and his wife

Tracey Moffatt makes her film work *Night cries*

Maria Kozic creates her schlock billboard *Maria Kozic is BITCH*

Aboriginal art: the continuing tradition exhibition held at the Australian National Gallery, Canberra

1990s

The 1990s were defined by globalisation. For the first time, people all over the world were able to watch a war – the Gulf War – live on television. After the Cold War, world trade increased and the rise of the internet promoted the sharing of different cultures. The European Union was set up and NATO expanded. Some fear this will ultimately lead to one world government, assimilation or the dumping of cultures altogether. But globalisation challenged the hegemony of the Euro-American avant-garde, with artists from Asia, Africa and Latin America (such as Takashi Murakami, William Kentridge and Ernesto Neto) placing their indelible stamp on the contemporary art scene. Ron Mueck and Leigh Bowery were among Australia's better known contemporary art exports, along with Indigenous Australian artists Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Rover Thomas and Freddie Timms.

The art of the mid 1990s reflected both the newly global situation and the increasingly blurred line between the real and the virtual. By the end of the decade, it had become mainstream to communicate with others around the world through chat rooms, forums, wikis, blogs and, of course, email, and spam meant more than canned meat.

1990

Hubble Space Telescope launched

Gulf War begins following Iraqi invasion of Kuwait

East and West Germany reunify

Nelson Mandela freed after 27 years as a political prisoner in South Africa

Michael Crichton publishes the novel *Jurassic Park*

Tim Berners-Lee submits his proposal for the World Wide Web

Smoking on US domestic flights banned

The Three Tenors perform during World Cup soccer finals

Andreas Gursky starts taking his stockmarket-themed photographs

High and low: modern art and popular culture exhibition held at the Museum of Modern Art, New York

Art et publicité 1890–1990 exhibition held at Centre Pompidou, Paris

Biennale of Sydney, *The readymade boomerang*, artistic director René Block

9th Kaldor project: Christo and Jeanne-Claude create *Wrapped Vestibule* at the Art Gallery of NSW, which is presented with a survey exhibition *Christo* at the Gallery and at the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

1991

USSR dissolves into 15 separate republics

US and its allies begin Operation Desert Storm against Iraq in the Gulf War

Paul Keating becomes Australian Prime Minister after challenging Hawke for Labor leadership

Release of film *Terminator 2: Judgement Day*, directed by James Cameron, which advances computer morphing technology

Sony Playstation released

Douglas Coupland publishes the novel *Generation-X*, launching a naming style for the generations

‘Grunge’ style, originating in Seattle, US, influences popular music and fashion

Yothu Yindi releases the highly political and hugely successful single *Treaty*

Passages de l’image exhibition, about the proliferation of images, held at Centre Pompidou, Paris

Perspecta, curated by Victoria Lynn, features sound and environmental installations

1992

Riots in Los Angeles after the videotaped bashing of a black man, Rodney King, by police

Prince Charles and Diana separate, divorcing four years later

Australia issues the first in its complete series of plastic currency notes

TV’s *X-Files* series lands in the US

First Big Day Out music festival at the Sydney Showground

Tim Winton’s novel *Cloudstreet* wins the Miles Franklin Award

Australian painter Brett Whiteley dies, aged 53

Third Australian Contemporary Art Fair held in Melbourne

Pop art 1955–70 exhibition held at the Art Gallery of NSW

Biennale of Sydney, *The boundary rider*, artistic director Anthony Bond

1993

European Union (EU) ratified

US military introduces combat roles for women

Car bomb detonates in the World Trade Centre, New York

Rwandan genocide begins

Nokia sends text messages between mobile phones

Deconstructivist architect Bernard Tschumi completes the Parc de la Villette in Paris, which includes sculpture by Claes Oldenburg

First Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art held at the Queensland Art Gallery

Jeff Gibson identifies an Australian ‘grunge art movement’, particularly in Sydney, in his essay ‘Avant-grunge’

1994

Existence of black holes proved by NASA scientists using Hubble Telescope

Channel Tunnel (or Chunnel) opens, connecting Britain and France by undersea rail

700 paintings in St Petersburg's Hermitage revealed as looted from Germany in 1945 by Russian soldiers

Kurt Cobain, lead singer of Nirvana, commits suicide

Michael Jackson weds Elvis's daughter, Lisa Marie Presley

Friends series debuts on US TV

Australian films *Muriel's wedding* and *The adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* provide defining moments in the nation's visual culture

Yiribana Gallery opens at the Art Gallery of NSW, housing the world's largest permanent exhibition of Indigenous Australian art

Gordon Bennett produces the video *Performance with object for the expiation of guilt*

1995

First centenary of the moving image

CD-ROM can now carry a full-length feature film

Sony demonstrates a flat-screen TV

Release of film *Pulp fiction*, directed by Quentin Tarantino, which wins the Palme d'Or at Cannes

Timothy McVeigh bombs an Oklahoma City federal building, killing 168 people

William Robinson wins the Archibald Prize with *Self portrait with stunned mullet*

Loti and Victor Smorgon Collection of Contemporary Australian Art gifted to Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art

10th Kaldor project: Jeff Koons' *Puppy* created outside the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney, accompanied by an exhibition of Kaldor projects, John Kaldor's collection, past Koons works and documentation of the making of *Puppy*

1996

NASA Rover mission successfully lands and sends back photographs of the surface of Mars

American football legend OJ Simpson found not guilty of murdering his wife

Rapper Tupac Shakur gunned down

Ebola virus kills 244 Africans in Kikwit, Zaire in Central Africa

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assassinated at a Tel-Aviv peace rally

Fifteen cybercafés now operating in Paris

Release of Australian film *Shine*, featuring Geoffrey Rush, who wins Best Actor Oscar for the role

Liberal Party leader John Howard becomes Australian Prime Minister

Martin Bryant kills 35 people and injures 21 in the Port Arthur massacre, Tasmania

Sculpture by the Sea begins, a major outdoor public exhibition on Sydney's coast

Biennale of Sydney, *Jurassic technologies revenant*, artistic director Dr Lynne Cooke

1997

Scottish scientists clone a sheep named Dolly

British colony of Hong Kong returned to China

The head of Indigenous man Yagan repatriated to Australia 164 years after being taken to the UK

Bringing them home tabled, the report into the removal of Indigenous Australian children from their families, known as the Stolen Generations

Diana, Princess of Wales, dies as the result of a car crash in Paris after being pursued by paparazzi

Stuart Diver is the sole survivor of a landslide in Thredbo, Australia

South Park, a cartoon series for adults, debuts on US TV

JK Rowling publishes the first *Harry Potter* book

Guggenheim Bilbao Museum, designed by Frank Gehry, opens in Spain

Sensation: young British artists from the Saatchi collection exhibition causes a sensation in London

Body exhibition held at the Art Gallery of NSW

1998

US President Bill Clinton impeached on grounds of perjury

Anti-impotence drug Viagra on the market

Google search engine emerges

Colourful Apple iMac computer launched

Release of *The Truman Show* and *Pleasantville*, films that blur the boundary between the real and hyper-real

Fox Studios Australia opens in Sydney

Patrick Corporation sacks 2000 workers in Australia to try to improve efficiency on the waterfront

Nicolas Bourriaud develops the idea of relational art, where the audience is envisaged as a community

Biennale of Sydney, *Every day*, artistic director Jonathan Watkins

11th Kaldor project: Sol LeWitt's *Wall pieces* exhibition held at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney

1999

Y2K scare of computer failure when the clocks roll over to 2000

Ikonos satellite can identify things on earth as small as a card table

Euro becomes official European currency

NATO begins bombing Yugoslavia in response to 'ethnic cleansing' of Kosovar Albanians

Two US students go on killing spree at Columbine High School

Massive hailstorm hits Sydney, the costliest natural disaster in insurance history

First large peer-to-peer music filesharing network, Napster, launched

Low-cost US horror movie *The Blair Witch Project* spawns a new style of film making and marketing

The Matrix, made in Australia, sets new standards for movie special effects

Big Brother TV reality series debuts

Archibald Prize winning painter Wendy Sharpe sent to East Timor as Australia's first woman war artist

12th Kaldor project: Vanessa Beecroft's performance work *VB40* presented at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney

2000s

The 2000 decade has been dominated, in part, by ecological crisis, natural disasters, a growing concern over energy and the debate over how to address climate change. China has become a world power and India's economy has become technologically integrated with those of the world's more developed nations. International politics has revolved around the War on Terrorism, while the recent global financial crisis (GFC) has led to increased interest in freeganism and frugality. There has been an explosion in telecommunications, with mobile phones, digital cameras and digital audio players now commonplace. On the cultural front, gangsta rap was replaced by electro-hop, crunk, urban pop and dance pop, and emo, a genre of punk music as well as a fashion aesthetic, was born. Tattoos and body piercings are now completely mainstream. Reality TV is standard.

The number of public art projects directed at improving the quality of public environments has increased significantly. Like their overseas counterparts, Australian artists (often unrepresented) have taken up artist-blogging, photo-sharing sites, and street art, shared over the web. Indeed, many artists are now creating works that – as theorist Nicolas Bourriaud described it – take their point of departure in the changing mental space that has been opened by the internet.

2000

Human genome deciphered, identifying all the genes in human DNA

Dot-com bubble bursts, dampening a speculative frenzy of investment in internet-related stocks

Crash of a supersonic Concorde plane kills 113 people

George W Bush elected US President

Millennium Dome, the largest dome in the world, opens at Greenwich, UK

Sydney Olympic Games a massive success

World Economic Forum held in Melbourne

Death of an Aboriginal teen in prison sparks controversy about mandatory sentencing laws

Papunya Tula: genesis and genius major retrospective shown at the Art Gallery of NSW

Harald Szeemann on international selection committee for the Biennale of Sydney

2001

Terrorists attack World Trade Centre in New York on September 11

50% of Americans now use the internet

Albert Einstein named *TIME* magazine's 'Person of the Century'

Apple iPod becomes the bestselling MP3 player and an icon of the decade

Release of the first film in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, directed by Peter Jackson

Idol TV franchise kicks off internationally

Australia celebrates a centenary of federation

MV Tampa, carrying refugees rescued from a sinking boat, refused entry to Australian waters

SIEV-X sinks en-route to Australia, killing 353 asylum seekers

Digital TV arrives in Australia's major state capitals

Adam Cullen's *Portrait of David Wenham* wins Archibald Prize

Space odysseys, an exhibition of immersive installations, shown at the Art Gallery of NSW

2002

Web logs become 'blogs'

Apple iMovies bundled with all new Macs for editing home movies

PC sales pass one billion mark

Euthanasia legalised in the Netherlands

East Timor becomes a new nation

Terrorist bomb in Bali kills 202 people, including 88 Australians

Kath & Kim, a satirical series on suburban life, premieres on Australian TV

Tim Winton's novel *Dirt music* wins the Miles Franklin Award

Gallery of Modern Art built in Brisbane, the second site of the Queensland Art Gallery

World without end exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW examines the role of photography in shaping our consciousness

Biennale of Sydney, (*The world may be*) *fantastic*, artistic director Richard Grayson

2003

Space shuttle Columbia explodes during take-off

Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein captured by US troops

Second Life offers a parallel 3D virtual world on the internet

Social networking website MySpace.com launched

Dan Brown releases his best-selling novel *The Da Vinci Code*

US President George W Bush and Chinese President Hu Jintao visit Australia simultaneously

Bushfires around Canberra kill four people and destroy more than 500 homes

National Gallery of Victoria opens The Ian Potter Centre in Federation Square, Melbourne

Art Gallery Society of NSW celebrates its 50th anniversary

Art Gallery of NSW opens new Asian galleries

13th Kaldor project: Udo Rondinone exhibition *One magic hour held* at Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art followed by *Clockwork for oracle* at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art in Melbourne

2004

Athens hosts the Olympic Games

Boxing Day tsunami devastates Asia

Tasmanian-born Mary Donaldson weds Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark

Term 'podcasting' coined for downloading a program as a digital file

Social networking website Facebook takes off

Wi-fi cellphones, or internet phones, introduced

Bomb outside the Australian embassy in Indonesia kills 11 people and injures up to 100

Riots break out in the Sydney suburb of Redfern over the death of an Aboriginal teenager

Fire in the Momart storage warehouse in London destroys works by Tracey Emin, Damien Hirst and others

Art Gallery of NSW establishes the biennial Anne Landa Award for video and new media arts

Biennale of Sydney, *On reason and emotion*, curator Isabel Carlos

Kaldor Public Art Projects listed on Australia's Register of Cultural Institutions

14th Kaldor project: Barry McGee's *The stars were aligned...* is installed in Melbourne's Metropolitan Meat Market along with *Water wall mural* at the National Gallery of Victoria

2005

US President George W Bush inaugurated for a second term

Internet site YouTube posts its first video

Kyoto Protocol, on reducing carbon emissions, takes effect without US and Australia

Cameraphones create instant citizen-photojournalists

Hurricane Katrina leaves millions homeless in New Orleans, US

Australian Schapelle Corby sentenced to 20 years prison in Indonesia for drug smuggling

Race riots on Sydney's Cronulla Beach between young Anglo and Middle Eastern Australians

Directors in Australia granted a share of copyright in their films

Christo and Jeanne-Claude installation *The Gates, Central Park, New York City, 1979–2005*

National Gallery of Australia exhibits *Bill Viola: The Passions*

John Kaldor closes the Australian office of his textiles business to devote his time to art

2006

Release of Al Gore's documentary on global warming, *An inconvenient truth*

Chinese government builds the 'Great Firewall' to censor the internet

Iraqi civilian casualties exceed 55 000

Skype internet phone system introduced

TIME 'Person of the Year' is you, for taking control of your media

400th anniversary of Rembrandt's birth

Two miners rescued after two weeks trapped underground at Beaconsfield, Tasmania

Steve Irwin, 'The Crocodile Hunter', killed by a stingray barb while diving

Australian race driver Peter Brock killed when his rally car hits a tree

Microsoft releases the Xbox 360 games console in Australia

Ten canoes, the first full-length feature film entirely in an Aboriginal language, wins special jury prize at Cannes

Imants Tillers: one world many visions, a major retrospective, opens at National Gallery of Australia

Biennale of Sydney, *Zones of contact*, artistic director and curator Dr Charles Merewether

2007

Labor leader Kevin Rudd becomes Australian Prime Minister

Apple launches the iPhone
'Residents' of Second Life now more than 6 million

Business and government in Estonia nearly shut down by a 'botnet' attack

First Earth Hour as Sydneysiders turn off their lights as part of an energy-efficiency campaign

Sydney covered in smoke after bushfires in the Blue Mountains, west of the city

A cavalier (self portrait) by Frans van Mieris I stolen from the Art Gallery of NSW

15th Kaldor project: Urs Fischer creates his *Cockatoo Island installation* on the site of an old convict prison on an island in Sydney Harbour

16th Kaldor project: Gregor Schneider creates *21 beach cells* on Sydney's iconic Bondi Beach, which in 2009, is recreated on Accadia Beach in Herzliya, Israel

2008

World stockmarkets plunge, fuelled by the US subprime mortgage crisis

Activists in Egypt use Facebook to rally for democracy

Rising food and fuel prices trigger riots in the Third World

Release of *WALL-E*, Pixar's ecologically-minded animation

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivers a formal apology to the Stolen Generations

MySpace Australia holds its first art competition

Artists resale royalty right scheme introduced in Australia

Police in Sydney confiscate artist Bill Henson's photographs, sparking debate on censorship

Biennale of Sydney, *Revolutions – forms that turn*, artistic director Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev

Gift of the John Kaldor Family Collection to the Art Gallery of NSW announced

2009

17th Kaldor project: Two works – *Fire Woman* and *Tristan's Ascension (The Sound of a Mountain Under a Waterfall)* – from Bill Viola's *The Tristan Project* installed at St Saviour's Church in the Sydney suburb of Redfern

18th Kaldor project: Martin Boyce creates the installation *We are shipwrecked and landlocked* in the grounds of Old Melbourne Gaol

Barack Obama inaugurated as the 44th, and first African-American, US President

Icelandic banking system collapses, toppling the government

Russian and US satellites collide over Siberia

UNESCO launches the World Digital Library

Pop icon Michael Jackson dies

Bushfires in Victoria kill 173 people and leave 7500 homeless

Swine flu becomes the world's first influenza pandemic in 40 years

Tim Winton wins his fourth Miles Franklin Award for the novel *Breath*

Guy Maestri wins the Archibald Prize for his portrait of Indigenous musician Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu

19th Kaldor project: Tatzu Nishi transforms equestrian sculptures on Art Gallery Road, outside the Art Gallery of NSW, for his work *War and peace and in between*

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Christo and Jeanne-Claude
Wrapped Coast – One Million Square Feet, Little Bay, Sydney, Australia, 1968–69
90 000 square metres of erosion control fabric and 56.3 kilometres of rope
Photo: Harry Shunk
Courtesy Kaldor Public Art Projects
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