

SYDNEON

by Bambam

There's more to see in Sydney after dark. Forget the paper chase and kick the night off with a cold Asahi and vodka chaser instead, at LO-Fi Collective in Darlinghurst.

LO-Fi Collective is a unique weekly showcase of "low brow" artists, designers and photographers. More like a well attended party than a properly licensed venue, this uber cool 3rd floor warehouse is part gallery part studio. It gets some really nice work on its walls from resident artists including GO FONT UR SELF, MEGGS, EARS, MAX BERRY, NUMSKULL, BEN FROST, JOSH ROELINK, YIMMY YAYO, FAFI, JEREMYVILLE, SOFLES, JUMBO, ZAP, BEASTMAN, PHIBS, CREEPY, EASLINN, BONNES, BRENT SMITH, KARENA ZEREFOS, MIA TANINAKA, TWO ONE, SAYNT, WELL DRESSED VANDALS, HELEN MYCROFT, JOEL BIRCH, BLENDS and TRENT WHITEHEAD, and is provided at no cost or commission to the artists. Get into this place while the getting is good. April exhibitions include *Luke Williams - The Streets of Sydney* (Thurs April 14th), and *Back Burners - Graffiti & Denim Jackets* (Thurs April 21st).

• LO-Fi Collective, Floor 3, 383 Bourke Street, Darlinghurst - www.wearlofi.com.au

Just up the road from LO-Fi, Object Gallery and Collect will open a new permutation of the popular *Design Now!* series known as *Australian Design Now*, on 9 April. This first rebirth, curated by the Office for Good Design will be dubbed *Annual Manual: A Guide to Australian Design Now* and will see eight emerging designers chosen from expanded eligibility criteria that now includes TAFE graduates and other creators from outside the formal education system. Spanning a range of media and disciplines, the exhibition looks at broad areas of design, and one outstanding designer will receive the opportunity to produce a solo show at Object's Project Space. Object is also throwing in some cash toward production costs to kick start some new work. Chosen from over one hundred and twenty nominees, congratulations are in order for the top eight: Aly De Groot (NT), Kristel Britcher (SA), Daniel To and Emma Aiston (aka Daniel Emma) (SA), Emily Nam (VIC), In-ah Shin (NSW), Esther Stewart (VIC), Meredith Turnbull (VIC) and Thomas Llewellyn (VIC).

• Object Gallery & Collect, St Margarets, 417 Bourke Street, Surry Hills - www.object.com.au

The Australian Museum's *Jurassic Lounge* program is a series of talks held after-hours every Tuesday evening. You can wander the Museum collections, be entertained by performances and DJs, or entranced by talks, all whilst enjoying a little after work tippie. In April artist Silke Raetze will give a floor talk about her involvement in the Museum's *Rituals and Seduction: Birds of Paradise* exhibition. Opening from 9 April, these drawings, paper sculptures and printed silks were created during Silke's three-month artist-in-residency program at the Museum. The residency happened quite by chance, after Silke's interest in wings led her to visit the Australian Museum's collection of bird specimens. "I've been fascinated with wings for a long time and have often featured them in my work," explains Silke. "To me they symbolize a freedom in the ability to rise above, to transcend." The visit inspired her proposal to access the collection archives, which in turn resulted in an official artist-in-residency offer. Beginning in September 2010, Raetze was granted behind-the-scenes access to the ornithology department's collection of Bird of Paradise specimens, where, during regular visits over the next three-month period, the artist found the study of these birds to be a humbling experience. "Anything I create will always pale in comparison to nature itself," she says. "Birds of Paradise have evolved uniquely in their isolated rainforest habitats, and that in itself is a thought-provoking concept that appeals to me - the idea of individualism through isolation."

• *Rituals and Seduction: Birds of Paradise* runs from 9 April until 7 August at the Australian Museum, 6 College Street, Sydney. Silke Raetze is talking at *Jurassic Lounge* on Tuesday 12 April from 6pm. Tickets are \$15 and can be booked through www.jurassiclounge.com. Silke Raetze is represented by Michael Reid at Elizabeth Bay - www.silkerRaetze.com

If you didn't already know it, Sydney Fringe submissions opened on 21 March and plan to remain that way until 30 April. It is only the second year for this little baby, so it's a great time to be involved. The festival's new Director, Richard Hull, boasts a fourteen-year association with the Edinburgh Fringe as a Producer with Assembly Theatre as well as his own independent company. Richard has also 'done' the West End, managing theatres in London including the Donmar Warehouse with Artistic Director Sam Mendes, and the Prince Edward Theatre for Cameron Mackintosh. He has been working as Head of Customer Service at the Sydney Opera House for the last three years, but much of the West End's

influence obviously remains: "Existing shows or brand new works," he says. "Whatever they are and however they are, off the wall, off the kerb, off kilter, underground, overground, alternative, contemporary, mainstream, slipstream, risky or frisky. Anything that entertains and will make Sydney sit up and pay attention. Now is the time to make your pitch." Check out the razzle-dazzle in that! "If you have an idea," says Richard, "the Fringe wants to hear about it. This event is unique on the Sydney cultural calendar and provides a rare platform for established and emerging artists to unleash their talent and imagination on the world. We want to induce a maelstrom of creativity." Greg Khoury, Chair of the Newtown Entertainment Precinct Association (the Fringe's governing body) said: "We are very lucky to have been able to add Richard to the Fringe's small team. He has the skills, experience and enthusiasm that the Fringe needs to build on the achievements of its inaugural Director."

Hull replaces inaugural Fringe Director, Kris Stewart, who is leaving to take up the position of Director of the Festival of Voices in Tasmania. In 2010 Kris oversaw in excess of three hundred and fifty submissions across a range of performing, digital and visual arts practice. More than three thousand artists featured in Sydney Fringe over a three-week period, and audiences topped one hundred thousand. With food and drink purchases, the Festival is estimated to have contributed a ten million dollar economic boost to the Inner West, which is, by the way, being hailed as "the most concentrated entertainment precinct in Australia" by some sources. "Kris has established a strong platform and support for the Fringe with great gusto and goodwill," says Greg Khoury. "He will maintain close links with NEPA and The Sydney Fringe project, providing continuity and a growing base of expertise and support. We believe Richard Hull will make a valuable contribution to the progress of the Fringe into a festival that will shine on the world stage."

• Sydney Fringe - Submission fee is \$25. Submissions close on 30 April. Office Hours between 9:30am and 5pm. Email: info@thesydneyfringe.com.au Phone: 61 2 9560 9167 Visit www.thesydneyfringe.com.au

SYDNEON continues in next month's issue of *Trouble* and welcomes your comments, party pics, performance and exhibition news, and invitations. Send to: sydneon@introuble.com.au