

# MEDIA RELEASE

Melbourne  
Fringe



18 August 2011

## **The Forbidden Fruit** a contemplative, interactive installation

**In the midst of Edinburgh Gardens, installation artist Kathy McCormick pays homage to Eve with a resurrected Tree of Knowledge, a collage of confusion and longing to return to the Garden. The Forbidden Fruit tempts picnicker to share Eve's oedipal moment with the cold hearted deity of her past, challenging misconceptions with a contemporary theology that makes god bothering a task for believers, agnostics and atheists alike. Now, bite that apple.**

Recently teaching in Melbourne, His Holiness the Dalai Lama advised the huge audience of lay Buddhists that it was important to focus on ones own spiritual traditions, with the unstated mission of improving them. Some may have been left wondering though, if the Buddhist aspiration of happiness of all beings has the same mileage in Christian teachings or leadership.

With a background in interfaith and intercultural dialogue, artist Kathy McCormick has taken up the challenge and devised The Forbidden Fruit, a public installation exploring the contemporary relevance of the biblical story through the perspective of Eve. Wise to the world as we know it, she returns to the Tree of Knowledge and confronts God with questions, bombards him with epiphanies and pleads to reinvigorate their relationship. As equals.

While the Garden of Eden sets common ground for Christianity, Judaism and Islam, the narrative has as much creative potential for the modern world facing ecological crisis. In fact, many of the ideas presented in The Forbidden Fruit are based on the novel Ishmael by Daniel Quinn, winner of Turner Tomorrow Fellowship Award in 1991 for posing 'creative and positive solutions to global problems'. Quinn's interpretation explores the ancient story from the perspective of the non human world, mapping the human journey from indigenous lifestyles to a global monoculture dominating the landscape with a 'totalitarian agriculture' and overpopulation.

Whether eating the apple from the Tree of Knowledge marks the awakening of human consciousness, or the tragic alienation from our environment, The Forbidden Fruit will at least provide food for thought.

<http://theforbiddenfruit.info/>

### **The Forbidden Fruit**

VENUE  
Edinburgh Gardens  
St. Georges Rd  
North Fitzroy, Victoria 3068

DATES: 8-9 Oct  
TIME: 12.00pm - 6.00pm

TICKETS  
FREE  
TO BOOK visit [melbournefringe.com.au](http://melbournefringe.com.au) or call (03) 9660 9666

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