

The CBD Rhythm

The new exhibition reimagining the remnants of our past travels

Postcards: They're something most of us have sent or received at some stage in our lives, but as time goes on and digital records evolve, so too does both the beauty and significance of these small, yet "fragile time capsules".

WORDS BY Sean Car
PHOTOGRAPHY BY Robert Wagner

From the internationally acclaimed artist Marco Luccio, who brought the world *New York Postcards* in 2019, comes a new exhibition opening on April 4 at fortyfivedownstairs on Flinders Lane which seeks to reposition these delicate artefacts in a whole new way.

Running until April 29, *Cuorosensa: A Reverse Archaeology* presents yet another thought-provoking collection of mixed-media works by the award-winning Italian born, Melbourne-based artist, who has held upward of 50 solo exhibitions nationwide and internationally.

More than 15 years ago, Luccio began collecting used postcards from New York City flea markets and curio shops when he was a resident at the top of the Chrysler building (notably, the only other artist to have had a studio in the iconic landmark is esteemed *Life* photographer, Margaret Bourke-White).



Impressed by the evocative nostalgia and intimacy of the cards, they were, according to Luccio "beautiful artefacts, remnants of the past preserved in small and fragile time capsules".

That sentiment was reflected in Luccio's wonderful collection of small-scale works, *New York Postcards*.

In *Cuorosensa* – an Italian word fashioned by Luccio meaning "sensed for the heart", which encapsulates the feeling he said he experienced

in New York when first encountering the "beauty of the texture" of the postcards, the evolution takes on a much larger scale.

The exhibition sees Luccio's recognisable themes, from his Eiffel Tower and his Trojan Horse to his meditations on the myths and figures of classical antiquity, presented on layers of postcards with glimpses of the messages they once conveyed laced throughout.

Describing postcards as the "perfect

representation of our lives" that are a "testament to civilisation and human connection", Luccio reimagines what were once fragile artefacts as the bedrock of an interlocking canvas.

By doing so, Luccio elevates their significance as the presumptive ephemera of material culture becomes the base upon which layers of bigger and vaster gestures are built, as the expansive concept of civilisation meets the intimate concept of community ... and it is unexpectedly coherent.

In this display of "reverse archaeology", *Cuorosensa* allows us to instead dig into our own remnants and celebrate our own personal understandings of history and connection through a symbol that in itself also risks becoming lost to time.

Luccio told *CBD News* the concept of preservation was another central component to his latest body of work, which recognises the importance of our own heartfelt artefacts by providing an intriguing base for many important discussions.

"They're like artefacts and they're kind of fragile as well, so in a sense they are the perfect representation of our lives, because we carry all these words and thoughts and things in our bodies and in our minds," he said. "By preserving them as artefacts, their importance is elevated as our own symbols of civilisation." ●

For more information:
marcoluccio.com.au

Experience a "flair of unpredictability" this Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Melbourne International Comedy Festival is returning from March 29 to April 23, promising once again to have the city laughing more than the year before.

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

And while some of the more renowned venues will prove to be key attractions again in 2023, many of the CBD's smaller venues are also creating quite the buzz.

After receiving a nomination for Best Comedy Award at the 2020 Melbourne Fringe Festival, Melbourne-based performer Dylan Cole is bringing his latest work *Case Numbers* to the Greek Centre.

While the title is a playful reference to the pandemic and a global obsession with case numbers, the show itself is simply based on the premise of one man trying to crack the code of an inherited briefcase.

"The idea of creating a show based around cracking a code to a briefcase was always an interesting premise to me," Dylan said.

"To tell a story where an audience is constantly guessing what's inside a briefcase, before the contents are potentially revealed. I've always loved a big reveal. To try and top what has been conjured up in the imaginations of an audience."

One of the more unique aspects of the show is that it is a genre-defying meta-thriller work, that is crafted in a way where there is no defined beginning or end, and the middle is described as "entirely pointless".



▲ *Case Numbers* (left) and *Any More Questions?* (right)

"It's a cerebral, meta, absurd stand-up comedy show. A heady cross between a Beckett play, and a Christopher Nolan film. It's a show people could come back and see again, because there will undoubtedly be something they missed the first time," he said.

Case Numbers will only be part of the MICF from March 30 to April 9, so to experience a witty, well-crafted piece that is entirely left of centre, it is best to get in quick.

On the other hand, for something a little less scripted, established comedian and Melbournian Ben Lomas is returning to the Coopers Inn with *Any More Questions?* after experiencing much success last year with his show *Any Questions?*.

Described as "scripted improv meets talk show", Ben's show starts with the unexpected and continues on as an adventure, led predominantly by the questions audience members are desperate to ask.



Photo (left): Emma Holland.

Ben was first inspired to create the show in this format after realising that some of the best and funniest moments of his expansive decade-long career were when he asked the audience members if they had any questions.

"Sometimes it's the questions that allow you to open part of your life that you haven't really unpacked, and so you don't really know where the starting point is when someone asks a question," he said.

"But that's where my show is. It's loose, it's live, and it's just raw stand-up. Just a comedian being vulnerable, which I feel is my strength, so I thought I would play towards my strengths."

While the unexpected may seem daunting to some, Ben looks at it like an "adventure" which involves always trying to "keep the ball in the air", adding, "It's just straight stand-up with a flair of unpredictability."

As a comedian that works year-round across festivals, events and on television, including

more recently in *Just For Laughs*, Ben is encouraging attendees of MICF to really embrace everything on offer – from the smaller to larger venues, and the more commonly known comedians to the emerging.

"The Coopers Inn is a great comedy hub and it's kind of rare that you can have so many awesome shows in one spot," he said.

"I also always say that people should go see someone famous who they may have seen on tv, but also to go and take a punt on someone they may have seen only once or heard on the radio once (who are making a career of it but aren't household names), and then on top of that, someone they have never heard of."

The excitement of the annual festival has already well and truly picked up, with the two major events of The Gala, hosted by Luke McGregor, and the Opening Night Comedy Allstars Supershow, hosted by Hannah Gadsby, already sold out.

Despite this, there is still much on offer. The program is jam-packed with an array of comedians from all over the globe, each with something unique to offer.

Larger venues like the Melbourne Town Hall and Comedy Theatre, will host a multitude of powerhouse comedians, such as Urzila Carlson, Dave Hughes, Wil Anderson, Anne Edmonds, Dave Thornton, and Ed Kavalee, Tony Martin, Ash Williams and Lehmo who are collaborating for *Team Effort*.

comedyfestival.com.au/2023 ●



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