

# AGSA

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Monday 13 December 2021



## **2022 Adelaide Biennial artist's S.O.S callout for 1000 messages in a bottle**

**Adelaide, Australia:** Artist Laith McGregor is calling on members of the public to contribute their own 'message in a bottle' for one of his most ambitious large-scale installations to date as part of the *2022 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Free/State*.

For the 2022 Adelaide Biennial, McGregor's new work *Strange Days* will feature more than a thousand bottles fixed to the walls of the Art Gallery of South Australia spelling out S.O.S and filled with messages from participants.

McGregor is one of twenty-five Australian artists assembled in the *2022 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Free/ State* by curator Sebastian Goldspink, an exhibition that will challenge histories and art forms, and offer reflections on an era of multi-faceted global upheaval. McGregor sees the sealed vessels as holding the potential for universal communication and as being representative of hope in a time when we need it most.

Laith McGregor says, 'At some stage over the last three years, we have all felt like a castaway stuck on an island reaching out to loved ones with our own messages in a bottle. However, even in times of distress – as poet John Donne once wrote – 'No man is an island' and this work reflects our collective state of being during these strange times...'

'I invite participants to engage with the work and create a message in a bottle, expressing everything from their fears, concerns, feelings, notes to self, messages to loved ones; anything that they feel like they want to share, get off their chest or simply play with,' McGregor says.

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The Adelaide Biennial is the nation's longest-running curated survey of contemporary Australian art. Since 1990, as part of the Adelaide Festival, the Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art has created career-defining opportunities for close to 500 artists and has been experienced by more than one million visitors.

The *2022 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Free/State* will be presented throughout from 4 March to 5 June 2022 as part of the 2022 Adelaide Festival. For more information on how to submit a message in a bottle, visit [agsa.sa.gov.au/SOS](https://agsa.sa.gov.au/SOS)

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**MEDIA CONTACTS** Lindsay Ferris | M +61 405 046 116 | E [ferris.lindsay@artgallery.sa.gov.au](mailto:ferris.lindsay@artgallery.sa.gov.au)  
Elisabeth Alexander | P +61 8 8207 7402 | E [alexander.elisabeth@artgallery.sa.gov.au](mailto:alexander.elisabeth@artgallery.sa.gov.au)

**IMAGES** [https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/Laith%20McGregor\\_callout\\_images.zip](https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/Laith%20McGregor_callout_images.zip)

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Header image: Laith McGregor, born 1977, Sunshine Coast, Queensland, *Strange Days*, 2021-22, Byron Bay, New South Wales and Adelaide, pencil, paper, miscellaneous objects, bottles, dimensions variable; Courtesy the artist, STATION Gallery, Australia and Starkwhite, New Zealand