The Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA) is proud to announce an exciting new addition to the MCA Collection with the acquisition of Sydney artist Mikala Dwyer's installation *Square Cloud Compound* (2010).

*Square Cloud Compound* is a mysterious enclosure made from brightly coloured fabric cubes sewn into a huge canopy. This extraordinary structure is held up by painted posts adorned with lights, bird boxes, ornaments, plants, mirrors, charms and trinkets; and held down by tersely stretched stockings attached to the ceiling and floor. The posts, painted in constructivist-style black, white and red, stand like mythic sentinels.

*Square Cloud Compound* is presented alongside a gift from the artist to the MCA: a new multi-coloured wall painting, *Spell for a Corner*, that references a bird, moth, bat or phoenix rising.

MCA Director Elizabeth Ann Macgregor OBE, said: “We are thrilled to enrich the MCA Collection with *Square Cloud Compound*. This addition will deepen the engagement of those already familiar with Dwyer’s work while introducing it to new audiences visiting the MCA during the summer months.”

“Contemporary artists like Dwyer continually challenge us to think and see the world differently. Her works asks us to question ourselves and our outlook on life and society.”

Dwyer has a long association with the MCA since exhibiting in the inaugural *Primavera* exhibition in 1992, including a major solo show in 2000 and guest-curating *Primavera 2014*: Young Australian Artists.

*Square Cloud Compound* is characteristic of Dwyer’s experimental and experiential architectures,
which play on the permeable and changeable nature of objects and our relationship with them.

MCA Senior Curator Natasha Bullock, said: “The historical associations and darker undertones of Dwyer’s enclosure are offset by its exuberant and playful materiality. The installation is made from fabric squares that float like the clouds – a square cloud compound.”

Since 1989 the MCA Collection has acquired more than 4,000 works by Australian artists.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mikala Dwyer constructs idiosyncratic, personal spaces within the conventional architecture of the gallery using materials that have a strong association with the body. Her installations and sculptures are experimental and experiential architectures that play with the permeable and changeable nature of objects, materials and our relationship with them.

Dwyer’s work was selected for the Museum of Contemporary Art’s inaugural Primavera exhibition in 1992. Her recent solo exhibitions include: the garden of half-life, University of Sydney Art Gallery, Sydney (2014); Goldene Bend’er, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne (2013); Drawing Down the Moon, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane (2012); Panto Collapsar, Arts Project, Dublin (2012); Square Cloud Compound, Hamish Morrison Galerie, Berlin (2010); Moon Garden, Aratoi Museum, Masterton, New Zealand (2008); Black Sun Blue Moon, Hamish Morrison Galerie, Berlin (2007); The Addition and Subtractions and The Hanging Garden, Kunstraum, Potsdam (2007); I Maybe We, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, New Zealand (2005) and Mikala Dwyer, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (2000).


PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Curator’s Insights, Mikala Dwyer: MCA Collection
Hear from Assistant Curator Manya Sellers on the artist and works in the exhibition.
Thursday 18 February, 6.30–7pm, FREE.

Artist Talk: Mikala Dwyer
Where Myth and Magic Crash: A Conversation with Mikala Dwyer
Hear Sydney-based artist Mikala Dwyer discuss her work and practice. Dwyer is interested in the occult and the ability of her work to express ideas of uncertainty and instability.
Thursday 28 January, 6.30–7.30pm. MCA Galleries, Level 1. FREE, bookings recommended.