

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Experimental new-media artist comes to Launceston

Internationally-recognised experimental artist Stelarc will be joined in conversation with two leading new media experts for a special one-off event at the UTAS Annexe Theatre **today**.

Stelarc is an Australian artist who has performed extensively in Japan, Europe and the US, including new music, dance festivals and experimental theatre. He has used medical instruments, prosthetics, robotics, virtual reality systems and the internet to explore alternate, intimate and involuntary interfaces with the body.

Stelarc is currently surgically constructing and using stem cells to grow a visible ear on his arm, which will be internet enabled.

He will be joined by two other new media experts.

Director of the Academy Gallery Malcom Bywaters said he was proud the Gallery was bringing such high-profile, cutting-edge professionals to Launceston for this event.

“Stelarc, Dr. Joanna Zylinska and Professor Gary Hall will bring a wealth of new media experience to share with our students and the broader community,” he said.

Dr. Joanna Zylinska is a Reader in New Media and Communications at Goldsmiths, University of London. Dr Zylinska combines her philosophical writings with photographic art practice.

She has written three books and is also the editor of *The Cyborg Experiments: the Extensions of the Body in the Media Age* and co- editor of *Imaginary Neighbors: Mediating Polish-Jewish Relations after the Holocaust*.

Prof. Gary Hall is Professor of Media and Performing Arts at Coventry University, UK. He is the author of two books and s also founding co-editor of the open access journal *Culture Machine* and co-founder of the Open Humanities Press.

The conversation begins at 6pm, gold coin donation, at the Annexe Theatre at Inveresk. Bookings are not essential but please arrive early.

<http://www.stelarc.va.com.au/arcx.html>
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