

MEDIA RELEASE
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SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE ANNOUNCES NEW VISUAL ARTS INITIATIVES AT VIVID LIVE

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE
VIVID LIVE

With only five days remaining until one of the world's most iconic venues is completely transformed by ambitious contemporary music and spectacular light, **Sydney Opera House** today announced exciting new initiatives for this year's **Vivid LIVE**, part of Vivid Sydney, the world's largest festival of light, music and ideas.

This year, the Opera House will debut the Australian premiere of a free exhibition in the Western Foyer celebrating **Universal Everything** – the creators behind this year's Lighting of the Sails – **Squarepusher's Stor Eiglass Virtual Reality Experience** in the Box Office Foyer, plus the new festival pop-up bar, **The Deep Purple Pool Hall**, set against the backdrop of the most famous view of Sydney.

Ben Marshall, Vivid LIVE Curator and Head of Contemporary Music at Sydney Opera House, said *"One of the things I've most wanted to do is emphasise the concept of a complete takeover of the Opera House and all its space during Vivid LIVE. From whichever angle you approach the building you take in the entire architectural form and I wanted to play further with these magnificent spaces."*

"We have built on the intersection of visual art and music to create internal lighting projections and a free exhibition by Universal Everything - who are Lighting the Sails - giving the public a chance to unpack their rigorous, pop and mesmerising work. We're also thrilled to present Squarepusher and Marshmallow Laser Feast's eye-poppingly great virtual reality art-piece for Squarepusher's track 'Stor Eiglass' - a free VR installation for anyone to immerse themselves within while they're inside the building."

UNIVERSAL EVERYTHING FREE EXHIBITION – LIGHTING THE SAILS AND RECENT WORKS

Extending the **Vivid Sydney Light Walk** inside the Opera House for the first time, **Vivid LIVE** will present a free retrospective exhibition in the Western Foyer celebrating the careers of multi-disciplinary design collective **Universal Everything** – the British outfit responsible for **Lighting the Sails** this year, from May 22 – June 8.

"Inside the Sydney Opera House we are showing a series of video artworks which share a sense of life and humanity, through our studies in choreography, observing movements in nature and the extremes of pop culture - gleaned a heart and soul from digital technologies." – Universal Everything

Featuring selected works from collaborations with bands, brands and record labels – including *The Transfiguration* (2011), *Presence* (2013) and *Walking City* (2014) – audiences are invited to see the Sails up close, then delve deep into **Universal Everything's** singular world filled with colour-saturated delights, anthropomorphic wonders and digitally-crafted landscapes in an immersive environment for children and adults alike.

In addition to transforming the Western Foyer, Universal Everything's exhibition will extend to the vehicle concourse screens, while internal projections will feature on the Box Office stairs outside the Concert Hall.

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Universal Everything – Lighting the Sails and Recent Works
FREE EXHIBITION

Date: May 22 – June 8
Time: 6pm – 11pm
Location: Point 2 on the Vivid Light Walk. Sydney Opera House Western Foyer, Vehicle concourse screens, Box Office stairs.
 Entry to Western Foyer via Playhouse doors only
Tickets: Free

SQUAREPUSHER – STOR EIGLASS VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE

To celebrate **Squarepusher's** Sydney Opera House debut on the opening night of **Vivid LIVE**, the Opera House will host a free installation offering Squarepusher's **Stor Eiglass Virtual Reality Experience**, exclusively in the Main Box Office Foyer from May 22 to June 8.

Stor Eiglass is the opening track from **Squarepusher's** latest album **Damogen Furies**, and together with bleeding-edge artists, artistic studio **Marshallow Laser Feast**, BAFTA-winning animators **Blue Zoo** and illustrator **Rob Pybus**, a fully immersive virtual reality has been created, which can be experienced using Samsung Gear VR headsets. Samsung Gear VR creates an immersive mobile virtual reality experience, offering an augmented reality with 360 degree viewing in both 2D and 3D.

With his latest offering hailed as *“still way ahead of the game”* by NME, Squarepusher has a long history of exploring the creative possibilities of new technologies, a history evident in his live shows, and this collaboration delivers a wry, humorous, dystopian narrative to accompany the lead track.

Squarepusher – Stor Eiglass Virtual Reality experience
FREE EXHIBITION

Date: May 22 – 31
Time: 6pm – 11pm
Location: Main Box Office Foyer, Sydney Opera House
Tickets: Free

VIVID LIVE FESTIVAL BAR – THE DEEP PURPLE POOL HALL

Stamping their tequila-driven swagger across local-watering holes **Tio's Cervceria** and **The Cliff Dive**, bar-owners Jeremy Blackmore and Alex Dowd this year introduce **The Deep Purple Pool Hall** at Vivid LIVE, a bustling festival bar with downtown favourites, a craft-focused menu, live DJs and free pool, transforming one of the Opera House's best-kept secret hideaways into the ultimate harbour-side dive bar.

The Deep Purple Pool Hall

Date: May 22 – 31
Time: 6pm until late, every night
Location: Concert Hall Northern Foyer. Look for the neon eight ball on the Western Broadwalk, and head up the back stairs.
Tickets: Free to the general public

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