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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday 14 November, 2013

### **Sydney Welcomes Yoko Ono and her Art to NSW**

The first major Australian exhibition of work by the celebrated artist, activist and musician, Yoko Ono, will open this weekend exclusive to NSW at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA) as part of the Sydney International Art Series 2013-14.

Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Arts, George Souris, today joined Yoko Ono at the MCA for a preview of her exhibition *War is Over! (if you want it): Yoko Ono*, which represents the largest survey of Ms Ono's works ever seen in Australia, spanning five decades of her career.

"I am delighted and honoured to welcome Yoko Ono to Sydney which is hosting the *War is Over!* exhibition," Mr Souris said.

"This exhibition, together with the Art Gallery of NSW's *America: painting a nation*, showcasing the best of American art from the past 200 years, forms an important part of the Sydney International Art Series.

*War is Over!* features two works inspired by our Harbour City – *Play it by Trust*, which is an interactive chess board inspired by Sydney's magnificent harbour and the Sydney Opera House, and *Wish Tree for Sydney*, which invites exhibition visitors to write private messages of peace and hope, tying these to the branches of six lemon-scented eucalyptus saplings.

"We are expecting fans of Yoko Ono and those new to her art, from around Australia and overseas, to travel to NSW to experience this exhibition, exclusive to Sydney, Australia's major events capital."

Yoko Ono said: "I am very excited and honoured to have my first Australian solo exhibition in Sydney. It is an incredible new show I've developed just for you. There are many fantastic installations and participation works from different times."

MCA Chief Curator Rachel Kent said: "The exhibition reaffirms Ono's firm belief in the power of human agency – specifically, people's ability to dream of and work towards a better future together."

The Sydney International Art Series is supported by the NSW Government, through its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW, and brings the world's most outstanding exhibitions exclusively to NSW.

Since launching in 2010, more than one million people in total have attended Sydney International Art Series exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South and the MCA, with more than 90,000 from interstate and overseas, generating about \$80 million in direct visitor spending for the State.

Tickets to the Sydney International Art Series 2013-2014 are now on sale. A special Sydney International Art Pass is also available and will provide discounted entry to both exhibitions.

To purchase Art Pass tickets please visit the Art Gallery of NSW and MCA websites

[www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au](http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au) or [www.mca.com.au](http://www.mca.com.au) .