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WHAT SURVIVES?

REPORT FROM
BOGOTA

ALL ABOUT
KUITCA

INTERVIEW BY ROBERT STORR

LATIN AMERICA'S NEXT BIG STARS

WHEN IN SYDNEY for the Biennale

Casual but sophisticated, with a flourishing art scene, inventive restaurants, engaging shops, beaches galore, and warm, sunny weather, Sydney is replete with surprising seductions. And there is no more lively time to visit than during the Biennale, when artists of every stripe and from every continent converge on the city to participate in its wide-ranging programming. EXCERPTED FROM INDAGARE.COM



1 Cai Guo-Qiang's explosive *Inopportune: Stage One*, 2004, will be one of 50 installations on display on Cockatoo Island. **2** Bondi Beach, seen from Icebergs Dining Room and Bar. **3** The unmistakable Sydney Opera House.

GO

17TH BIENNALE OF SYDNEY

WHAT: Australia's most important contemporary-art event. Organizers expect this year's attendance to break 2008's record of more than 400,000 visitors.

WHEN: May 12–August 1

WHERE: Venues are located along Sydney Harbour and on Cockatoo Island, a short, free ferry ride away.

HIGHLIGHTS: Artistic director David Elliot, an international curator, writer, and former museum director, has conceived this Biennale specifically for Sydney. "Its aim," he says, "is to bring together work from diverse cultures on the equal playing field of contemporary art, where no culture can assume superiority over another." • Cockatoo Island, a former shipyard and imperial penitentiary, will display some 50 artworks created for its vast structures and varied open spaces, including installations by such artists as Cai Guo-Qiang and Hiroshi Sugimoto. • The Museum of Contemporary Art will exhibit massive painted-bronze sculptures by Louise Bourgeois along with a wood-and-bronze sculpture of a Stealth

Bomber intricately carved with Maori designs by the New Zealand artist Brett Graham and an installation of 110 memorial poles by 41 indigenous Yolngu artists. • SuperDeluxe, Tokyo's leading showcase for experimental music and culture, will take over Artspace, transforming it into a performance venue, gallery, bar, and club. • Finland's Mieskuoro Huutajat (Shouting Men's Choir) will yell on the steps of the fabled Sydney Opera House.

STAY

PARK HYATT SYDNEY

The city's ultimate dress-circle property, the Park Hyatt is ideally situated in the harbor and boasts unbeatable views of the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge. The taupe-on-beige decor isn't particularly memorable, but the location can't be beat, and the service is flawless and friendly. Most of the 158 rooms have balconies, but not all face the water; ask for one that does. The airy Harbour Kitchen & Bar serves freshly shucked oysters and warm seafood salad accompanied by more fabulous views. Come

evening, the scene at the Club Bar—furnished with overstuffed sofas—resembles that of a 19th-century gentleman's club.

7 HICKSON ROAD,
THE ROCKS
61-2-9241-1234
RATES: \$495–\$1,000
sydney.park.hyatt.com

THE OBSERVATORY HOTEL

With its livery-clad doormen, plush lounges, and hushed atmosphere, the Observatory harks back to a more refined era. Located in a residential area of the Rocks, the 100-room hotel is popular with the stealth-wealth set, who love the old-world setting—rooms are outfitted with damask- or floral-covered sofas, heavy curtains, antique-style furniture, and early 20th-century nature etchings on the walls. Many of the junior suites have balconies with harbor views, and there's an excellent spa and a pool set under a ceiling twinkling with fiber-optic stars. The service is white-glove, as befits the atmosphere, and afternoon tea is a beloved ritual.

99-113 KENT STREET,
THE ROCKS
61-2-9256-2222
800-237-1236
RATES: \$280–\$380
observatoryhotel.com.au