

Foreword
John Kaldor

Anri Sala's vision for The Last Resort captured my imagination. His metaphor of a 'message in a bottle' poetically expresses the long, arduous journey of a musical composition, its performance and reception, its passage across the seas and over time. With the project finally ashore in Sydney, another image comes to mind. A bottle whose liberated genie has granted three wishes: a project with a great artist, a wonderful new work of art, and a scenic site layered with heritage and history. All my wishes have come true.

We are honoured that Anri has created this new work for Australia, has spent time here and undertaken extensive research. The result is a creative odyssey encompassing art, music, diverse histories and philosophies, a complex work that reflects on the difficulties of displacing artistic expression from one site and culture to another.

A project comes with many challenges, but the one constant is the ongoing support of the individuals, foundations and corporations who partner with us to realise the vision of the artist, extend our education programs and engage diverse communities.

Firstly, my thanks to Naomi, my beloved wife. We met Anri almost ten years ago, a friendship that led to this outstanding project. My gratitude to our founding patron, the Balnaves Foundation, which has championed our projects from the start. Thank you to Bloomberg Philanthropies for your continued support.

I am most grateful for the commitment of our lead corporate partner, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. I would especially like to thank Ian Narev and Kate Abrahams for their ongoing enthusiasm. Thank you to PricewaterhouseCoopers for your continued support. Many thanks to Marco Rossi, Executive Chairman of Built, and your team. A huge thanks to Penelope Seidler and Harry Seidler Architects, especially to Greg Holman who loves the challenges of our projects.

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We are honoured to have the continued support of all three tiers of government. We are indebted to Senator the Honourable Mitch Fifield, Federal Minister for the Arts; to Rupert Myer, Chair of the Australia Council for the Arts. Thank you to the Honourable Donald Harwin, State Minister for the Arts, a great advocate for the arts.

My deep appreciation to the Right Honourable Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore, and the City of Sydney for their enthusiastic support. A special thank you to Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer, City of Sydney. The Last Resort is part of the city's Art & About initiative and I would like to thank Simon Walkom, Program Manager.

Our desire has always been to partner with other cultural institutions to widen the scope of our projects. Our sincere gratitude to the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, our project partner, especially to Dolla Merrillees, Director, and Tristan Sharp, Director of Programs and Engagement. It's a pleasure to work with the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, in particular the Dean, Professor Anna Reid, and Dr Neal Peres Da Costa, Professor of Historical Performance. Thank you to Professor Ross Harley, Dean of UNSW Art & Design, for your continued support.