

1 Bligh Street

Media Release

29 July 2010

Art commission at 1 Bligh Street awarded to respected Australian artist

Co-owners of 1 Bligh Street, DEXUS Property Group, DEXUS Wholesale Property Fund and Cbus Property today announced the formal commissioning of Australian artist, James Angus to create a public artwork for Sydney's newest premium office development at 1 Bligh Street.

James Angus was chosen from an international field of seven of the world's leading artists by a judging panel which comprised the 1 Bligh Street co-owners and architects. The proposal was also reviewed by the City of Sydney Public Art Advisory Panel.

The winning artwork is a large-scale aluminium sculpture, to be installed at the top of the broad curving steps at the building's entrance on the corner of Bent and O'Connell Streets. The sculpture is a complex network of three-dimensional ellipsoidal surfaces drawn from shapes expressed in the design of the building. The form will be enhanced by a brightly painted colour scheme which traces the underlying geometry. Commenting on the artwork, James Angus said, "The work is intended to be a twenty-first century response to the history of formal public art and equally addresses the task of placing an artwork in a modern, environmentally sensitive building."

DEXUS CEO, Victor Hoog Antink said, "The winning art proposal fits superbly with the forward thinking vision and groundbreaking design of what will be the next iconic, premium office tower addition to the Sydney CBD. We admire the intelligence and boldness of Mr Angus's vision."

"By commissioning this remarkable work of art outside the innovative 1 Bligh Street, we aim to add a new focal point for this key part of the city, enhancing the streetscape at the heart of Sydney's financial district."

The artwork will now progress to final design drawings, with installation planned to coincide with the building's completion date scheduled for May 2011.

Architect Christoph Ingenhoven said, "From the architects' perspective, Mr Angus's sculpture satisfies every one of our criteria, in being monumental, rigorous and bold whilst also welcoming and approachable. The decision to position the sculpture at the top of the broad curving steps will enable greater visibility and public interaction."

Architect Ray Brown added, "When completed, Mr Angus's sculpture will be highly visible, exciting and enjoyable - it will draw people to the building as a Sydney landmark and enliven the whole precinct."

Mr Angus said his aim was to incorporate key aspects of the development, which included its environmental sensitivity, unique design characteristics and public spaces. "From inside the building, the sculpture will gently frame views of the city and play to the building's natural strengths by drawing its meaning from the same sources: sunlight, shadows and a modern approach to placing art and architecture in an urban landscape."



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Art Advisor to 1 Bligh Street, Barbara Flynn commented that the collaboration of the 1 Bligh Street project partners had set a benchmark for art in private development projects in Australia. Ms Flynn said, "The openness and responsiveness the architects have demonstrated toward the art is unprecedented. The co-owners DEXUS, DWPF and Cbus were exemplary in their rigorous evaluation during the selection process to determine the artwork's contribution to Sydney, its uniqueness and how it complemented the building and surrounding streetscape."



High resolution image
available on request

Artist bio

James Angus was born in Perth in 1970 and attended Curtin University of Technology and the Yale University School of Art. His work was included in the 2008 Biennale of Sydney and has been exhibited in leading museums worldwide, including the Nationalgalerie im Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney. In 2009 he completed a site-specific work for the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra

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About 1 Bligh

1 Bligh Street is the next generation in high performing sustainable office space, combining leading edge design, technology and sustainability in a premium location. 1 Bligh Street is jointly owned by DEXUS Property Group (DEXUS), DEXUS Wholesale Property Fund (DWPF) and Cbus Property (Cbus). Under construction by Grocon and designed to the performance brief developed by DEXUS in 2006, Architectus in Australia and Ingenhoven Architects in Germany have teamed to create the design for an entirely new generation of Australian high-rise. www.1bligh.com.au