

JENNY KEE:

THE AUNTIES




Sydney
Festival
2023

JENNY KEE: THE AUNTIES

LGOP Collective
WORLD PREMIERE

South Eveleigh
5-29 January

ABOUT THE INSTALLATION

This summer, Jenny Kee's blowing up. She's the globally beloved Sydney artist responsible for the iconic Uni-Oz Stripe artwork you've seen everywhere from art galleries to outfits to crockery. But you've never seen it quite like this.

Meet Auntie Marge and Auntie Una - named for Jenny Kee's real aunts, both highly skilled and successful sewers who supported and guided Kee towards the top echelons of design and couture. Entirely alien yet amusingly familiar, these enormous squiggly creatures in their brightly knitted best just might be on their way to lunch after a visit to the gallery. Sprouting up in the creative and conservation-conscious precinct of Innovation Plaza at South Eveleigh, the playful pair of anthropomorphic beings presents a bold new interpretation of Jenny Kee's most iconic work; a celebration of an artist who has helped to shape Australia's visual identity and fiercely championed the protection of its environment.

Concept and design by the Lgop Collective, realised by The Inflatable Event Company and supported by South Eveleigh, these charismatic creatures towering into the summer sky are everything we love about art in Sydney.

NOTES FROM THE CREATORS

Lgop Collective member Suza Schiele, artistic concept

I have been exploring possibilities of anthropomorphic sculpture; crossovers between life-forms and object forms in clay, since 2020. The first series of new ceramic works, fusions of plants-formed vases and human feminine forms, was given the moniker "*The Aunties*", due to their vaguely bossy and winsome postures.

For Sydney Festival, the Lgop Collective has taken two of the original ceramic art works as models, one voluptuous Aunty, another slender and lean, and transformed them to ginormous air-supported sculptures. Serendipitously Aunty Uma and Aunty Marge appear as plant-like anthropomorphic beings, decorously wearing Jenny Kee's iconic knitted fashion with matching summer hats, and looking as if they have stopped for a chat while on a summer's day stroll.

Jenny Kee, original artwork

Forty years ago, I wanted to create an Australian Fairisle knit incorporating the spirit of Australia. Uni-Oz was my aunts favorite Kee design, and they loved working on it. It is a great way to honour them with my Mum, Enid. They loved it, they sewed it, they wore it. My vintage design salutes the aunts in my family and their contribution to raising the profile of Australian design internationally.

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JENNY KEE

Jenny Kee AO is a pioneer of Australian style, and internationally acclaimed as an artist and designer. For over forty years, her work on silk, paper, wool, cotton, ceramics and canvas has taken in influences from Aboriginal Australia through to early Europe and the exotic arts of Africa, India, Asia and South America. She is passionate about nature, and promoting a “strong, spontaneous, bold and optimistic” Australia. Kee’s work is exhibited at the Art Gallery of NSW, the NGA, the NGV, London’s V&A, and the Marimura in Tokyo.

LGOP COLLECTIVE

Lgop members Warwick Bell & Suza Schiele have collaborated since 2009 in creating participatory public art installations, combining their skills. Warwick in concept, design and project management and his extensive experience within the discipline of fabric and tensioned membrane structures and inflatable objects and Suza with her multifaceted art practice spanning painting, sculpture and mixed media through to performative installation. Together as Lgop, they have been crossing boundaries between their disciplines, introducing new materials and pushing into new realms of technology with the aim to address our collective need for shelter, comfort and social interaction. More at lgop.suza.co.nz

THE INFLATABLE EVENT COMPANY PTY LTD

Inflatable Event Co is a local Australian manufacturer of event, stage and promotional inflatables based in Sydney’s western suburbs. We have some of Australia’s most experienced inflatable people. All aspects from design, cutting, printing, assembly and lighting elements can happen in house. Inflatable Event Co’s Robert Waddell and Tom Zayit and their team of inflatable fabricators have enjoyed re-creating many well-known Australian artist or designer works as larger than life inflatable pieces. Artistic pieces, stage sets, sponsor, event or promotional inflatables made locally. Many examples of our work can be seen at inflatableevent.com.

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