

WATERWHEEL

**An ongoing interactive platform exploring
'water' – as a topic and a metaphor**



On Monday 22 August 2011, the new WATERWHEEL project and website will be launched at the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts in Brisbane from 6pm, and online on the WATERWHEEL website with a program of free performances.

Exploring 'water'—as a topic and metaphor—WATERWHEEL is an ongoing interactive, collaborative platform for performance, presentation and exchange.

WATERWHEEL investigates and celebrates this constant yet volatile global resource, fundamental element, environmental issue, political hot potato, universal theme and symbol of life. It encourages you to express and experience, explore and discover, share and collaborate, contribute and participate.

This new website calls on everyone—from performers and artists to engineers and environmentalists—to test the water, dive in, make a splash and start a wave. It draws together different people, practices, places, media and modes of expression. There are no borders or boundaries. It flows along its natural course.

WATERWHEEL is an interactive, collaborative platform for creating and sharing content on the subject and theme of water. An online space where you can share, perform and debate about water as a topic and metaphor, with people around the world or right next door! It is cost-free, accessible with just a click, and open to every one of all ages.

The project, initiated by Suzon Fuks and developed in collaboration with Inkahoots and Igneous, fosters creativity, collaboration and inter-cultural-generational exchange. *"There are many levels to engage with the site and the project. Whether you're initiating a project individually or collaborating with others or contributing to an existing one or simply spectating. A curator could get in contact with an artist, or scientists and activists in contact with their colleagues. It's a new mode for expression, exhibition or festival."* says Suzon.

On the Waterwheel homepage is the '*Wheel*', which rotates and ripples with the latest uploaded media about water: images, video, slideshow, music, text, spreadsheets or sound.

Suzon explains *"The 'Wheel' is made up of concentric rings that represents the latest 40 uploads. Anyone can log-in, and upload, access and comment on that media, and message other users. From there they can go to the 'Fountains' map and the 'Tap'."*

Powered by the WATERWHEEL, the *Tap* is an online, real-time venue and forum, workshop and stage for live networked performance and presentation. Here you can create and collaborate, rehearse and remix, present and exchange, participate and communicate—privately as a crew or publicly with an audience. The *Tap* provides tools for live networking and real-time media mixing. You can draw from the *Wheel*, and pour back to the *Wheel*.

MEDIA RELEASE Embargoed until 22 August 2011



Fountains then map and chronicle everything flowing from the *Tap*, along with other relevant projects and events. A fountain could be a performance or presentation, an exhibition or conference, a book launch or a film premiere. Promote your project or event. Find other projects around the world. Find upcoming events near you.

Suzon hopes *“to raise awareness about water issues and works, that people will generate new avenues, new works and new ways of presenting and performing, finding their own style within the venue and the tools that WATERWHEEL offers. I'd like the project to foster sharing and creativity, cross-cultural conversation, intergenerational exchange and debate, and help people who have controversial projects, ideas, or are in conflict, to make issues more public and facilitate decision-making and practical action.”*

Performers, artists, animators, designers, curators, directors, writers, scientists, engineers, students, teachers, environmentalists, water lovers, humans, anyone, anywhere can be part of this WATERWHEEL and it is FREE.

All you need is a computer with internet access and a web browser with the latest version of Adobe Flash Player. To contribute and collaborate via the *Tap*, you will also need a webcam and headset.

[WATERWHEEL site](#) | [facebook](#) | [twitter](#) | [blog](#) | [vimeo](#) | [flickr](#)

- [Watch the Waterwheel demo](#) (live from 13 August 2011)
- [Read the interview with Suzon Fuks in RealTime Arts.](#) (to be published on August 9)

This project is initiated by Suzon Fuks as part of a Fellowship assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; in collaboration with IGNEOUS and INKAHOOTS, supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, Brisbane City Council, the Judith Wright Centre for Contemporary Arts, Ausdance Queensland, Youth Arts Queensland & iMAL. Creative Sparks is a joint initiative of Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

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SUZON FUKS BIOGRAPHY

Suzon Fuks is a media artist, choreographer and director exploring the integration and interaction of dance & moving image through performance, screen, installation & online work. She is currently an Australia Council Fellowship recipient <http://suzonfuks.net> and the founder of WATERWHEEL.

Born in Brussels, Suzon trained daily in dance, theatre & music and completed her Masters in Visual Arts at La Cambre, a school based on the principles of the Bauhaus. Her creative practice and artistic innovations have been forged since the 80's. Her work has been influenced by the many cultures she has lived within, attracting international recognition. Since relocating to Australia from Europe in 1996, she has been co-artistic director of IGNEOUS <http://www.igneous.org.au>, and her work has continued to integrate and initiate innovative approaches to meshing performance, media and technologies, to national and international acclaim.

She has received a Green Room Award for Outstanding Video-Scenography in Theatre (New Form), a fellowship at The Australian Choreographic Centre, and residencies at Brisbane Powerhouse, Dance4 Nottingham, University of Brighton, and University of Sydney and in South India through Asialink. Short-listed for Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Achievement in Independent dance and for Dance on Film, she was a finalist in the ReelDance Awards.

She has directed 14 movement-based multimedia performance productions, created film/video-scenography for 18 productions, directed and edited 19 films and videos. A pioneer in networked/telematic performance in Australia, she co-devised 12 online interactive performance works and is a founding member of cyberformance group ActiveLayers (UK, NZ, Aus).

Her photographic exhibition *Keeping the Light* toured to seven capitals of the world and her documentary photographs are part of the State Library of NSW & the National Library of Australia collections. Her work has been published and sited in numerous publications.

WHAT: WATERWHEEL LAUNCH

WHEN: 22 AUGUST 2011 at 6pm

WHERE:

- 1- Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane QLD
- 2- Online on the WATERWHEEL website <http://water-wheel.net>

- ENDS -

For all media enquiries please contact –

Rosemary Walker / RAW Publicity / 0409 069 700 / rawpublicity@bigpond.com or

Tamsin Roseveare / sTAMp Marketing and PR / 0417 779 838 / stamp@iinet.net.au