

Bruce Munro

FIELD OF LIGHT ULURU



MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

Voyages is delighted that the monumental art phenomenon, Bruce Munro's Field of Light, has been extended for a further period at Ayers Rock Resort in the spiritual heart of Australia. The solar-powered installation opened on 1 April 2016 to critical acclaim, and will now continue to delight guests until 31 December 2020. This ambitious exhibition illuminates a remote desert area within sight of majestic Uluru and forms part of Ayers Rock Resort's commitment to arts and culture. The award-winning exhibition received extensive media attention during its first two seasons, significantly featuring in 2017's Qantas Safety Video with more than 90 million views worldwide.

Voyages is also pleased to announce an extension to the work Bruce Munro's Light Shower at Sails in the Desert Hotel. Continuing the focus on art at Ayers Rock Resort, Qantas Group and Voyages have again joined forces to bring another site specific light installation piece to Uluru. Light Shower, a sculptural cascading art work created by Bruce Munro, consisting of delicate shimmering points of light, will adorn the lobby of Sails in the Desert from March 2018.

ABOUT BRUCE MUNRO

British artist Bruce Munro is best known for producing large immersive light-based installations, which often employ a massing of components by the thousands. An artistic diarist, he has spent over 30 years collecting and recording ideas and images in his sketchbooks, which he returns to over time as source material. Language, literature, science, and music have also greatly influenced his work. Frequently, Bruce's subject matter is his own experience of fleeting moments of rapport with the world and existence in its largest sense of being part of life's essential pattern. His reoccurring motif is the use of light on an environmental scale in order to create an emotional response for the viewer.

Born in London in 1959, he completed a B.A. in Fine Arts at Bristol in 1982. Shortly after he moved to Sydney where he worked in design and lighting, inspired by Australia's natural light and landscape. Returning to England in 1992, he settled in Wiltshire, where together with his wife, Serena, raised four children. His work has been shown at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; Waddesdon Manor, the Rothschild Collection, Buckinghamshire; and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York.

It is held in museum collections internationally including the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. www.brucemunro.co.uk



ARTIST'S STATEMENT

The idea for Field of Light first landed in my sketch book in January 1992. I had been living in Australia for eight years, and my fiancée (now wife) Serena and I embarked on a camping farewell tour of Australia prior to our return to England. While camping at Uluru, the Red Centre seemed to radiate ideas like heat, and I dreamed of an artwork that would bloom at night, like dormant desert seeds responding to rain.

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ARTIST'S STATEMENT continued

It was an idea that stubbornly stayed lodged in my mind over the succeeding years, but I didn't have any opportunity to make a large version until 2004, in the field behind my house in rural Wiltshire. We left it up for a year to test it, and people began popping up at odd times to visit it, and that's when I began to notice that the gentle movement of the lights, not shimmering but almost breathing, created a response. The installation seems to inspire many thoughts and ideas; it brings people together and most importantly makes people smile, a worthy epitaph for a moment of inspiration in life's journey.

Between 2004 and now, I have had the good fortune to be asked to recreate the Field of Light in many forms. For each iteration, the piece begins at its original starting point, for the landscape it inhabits defines the work. Each version of the Field of Light is an organic piece that over time has stretched across fields, along city parks and through forested land, in urban squares, on building roofs and over rocky buttes. In May 2015, I paid my third visit to Uluru, with the joyous task to finally have the honour and privilege of creating an iteration of this artwork for the place that inspired it. A work conceived in the red desert returns to its birthplace springing from the dry ground. The spiritual majesty of the sacred rock was ever present and I found myself sighing with relief when I realised that my artistic attempt to pay homage to this special place was not just some whimsical folly, but a small gift to a large presence. As I set foot again in the landscape I knew that this Field of Light needed a form that symbolised and manifested the evolution of thoughts and ideas over the intervening years.

The Field of Light at Uluru represents the convergence of the land and culture and my own re-learning. This iteration is inspired by culture in its structure and form; a graphic description of all the thoughts and ideas of my own journey. The concept of time is important as Uluru is inextricably linked to a significant past, present and future. The natural pathways created by the artwork will draw viewers into the installation: my past, our present, Uluru's timeless future.

Each iteration of Field of Light has led to a reaction. I have learnt that the work has allowed the viewer to lose themselves within it, that it has inspired, led to love, healed sadness, that it has made people think. Of course I had not imagined nor planned for such responses but it speaks of the feeling of 'forever and always' truth that ephemeral experience sometimes creates, a sense connection and shared experience. All of us want to connect with the sense of being part of something larger than our single lives. This connection is no more important anywhere than at Uluru, an area sculpted by landscape and culture and shared memory.

ARTWORK STATISTICS

- Since opening in April 2016, more than 200,000 guests have experienced Field of Light Uluru
- Largest iteration of Bruce Munro's Field of Light to date comprising 50,000 stems
- The installation covers an area of over 49,000 square metres (the size of nine football pitches)
- The artwork is made up of 300,000 component parts
- Over 380km (236 miles) of optical fibre is used in the installation, if this was laid out in a straight line this is equivalent to the distance from Sydney to Wagga Wagga or from Los Angeles to Las Vegas. The fibre is re-usable and will be re-cycled for use in other installations
- The exhibition was created in the UK over a period of five months including finalising the design, ordering of materials and pre construction
- The installation took over 2,800 hours to design and build in the UK and a further 3,900 hours to recreate on site
- This was Bruce's first solar-powered installation. 36 portable Solar Panels are installed to interface with the 144 projectors used in the installation
- Six UK based art technicians, four AUS/US based art handlers and up to 15 volunteers were involved in the installation over a period of five weeks
- The distance between the Bruce Munro Studio and Uluru is 19,000 kilometres (11,800 miles)
- This is the farthest a piece of Bruce's artwork has travelled to an exhibition

Images by Mark Pickthall



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EXPERIENCING FIELD OF LIGHT ULURU

Guests at Ayers Rock Resort have a number of options to interact with Munro's monumental artwork:

- The entry-level Field of Light Pass (AU\$39) includes return coach transfers to the remote site and time to experience the artwork
- The Field of Light Star Pass (AU\$85) includes the above, an introduction to the artwork by a host along with sparkling wine and canapes at an elevated viewing area at the end of the evening
- The Field of Light Star Pass by Camel (AU\$189) includes the above, plus a 45 minute camel tour to Field of Light
- The 4½ hour A Night at Field of Light (AU\$245) includes an introduction to the artwork by a host, sparkling wine and canapes at sunset from an elevated viewing area, extended time to immerse in the installation and a three-course buffet dinner showcasing bush tucker ingredients as well as return coach transfers. There is also an option to arrive by camel or helicopter for this experience
- Field of Light Sunrise (Operated by AAT Kings, AU\$69) includes 45min walk-through the artwork, coffee/tea/hot-chocolate, return coach transfer
- The premium Mayu Wiru experience for a maximum of 16 guests runs between 22 October and 24 March each year and combines a gourmet menu of ancient Indigenous flavours with a private tour through Field of Light (AU\$295)



ABOUT AYERS ROCK RESORT AND VOYAGES INDIGENOUS TOURISM AUSTRALIA

Ayers Rock Resort encompasses five accommodation options including the premium Sails in the Desert, newly refurbished Desert Gardens Hotel, Emu Walk Apartments, Outback Pioneer Hotel and Lodge and Ayers Rock Campground. The Lost Camel Hotel will also reopen its doors in July 2018. Ayers Rock Resort is managed by Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia.

Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) and manages tourism and resorts on its behalf. Voyages offers unique experiences and cultural immersion in spectacular locations around Australia including Ayers Rock Resort in the Northern Territory, Home Valley Station in The Kimberley in Western Australia and the Mossman Gorge Centre, in Tropical North Queensland. Voyages works collaboratively with local communities, respecting and supporting the local Indigenous cultures and offering employment and training opportunities to the local and broader Australian and Torres-Strait Islander Indigenous communities.

Profits from all business activities are re-invested in the Indigenous and resort experiences and through the various training and development programs in place around Australia.



FREIGHTING THE INSTALLATION FROM LONDON TO ULURU BY OFFICIAL AIRLINE, QANTAS

- The Qantas Group transported the light installation made up of 50,000 individually handcrafted delicate 'light stems,' from London to Ayers Rock
- Between 26 December 2015 and 12 February 2016 this 15 tonne (which is equivalent to 15 cars or 3 killer whales) movement travelled more than 19,000 kilometres (11,800 miles) over 32 international and domestic Australia flights
- Qantas has a long history of supporting the Arts and is proud to be part of this project which offers travellers a unique, immersive experience while visiting Uluru
- The entire movement was more than 150 cubic metres which is equivalent to 150,000 litres of water or 300,000 bottles of mineral water
- It took 1 week to move the pieces from London to Sydney and 7 weeks from Sydney to Uluru
- The artwork will also be freighted back to the UK at the end of the exhibition using a similar return process

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ABOUT QANTAS FREIGHT

- Qantas Freight Enterprises is the international and domestic air freight division of the Qantas Group and employs 1400 staff across the globe
- Qantas Freight markets the freight capacity on Qantas and Jetstar passenger aircraft as well as operating a fleet of thirteen dedicated freighters to supplement capacity on key domestic and international routes
- This network, combined with the strength of the Emirates partnership and interline agreements, gives Qantas Freight significant network reach to more than 500 international and 80 domestic destinations
- As well as being Australia's leading cargo carrier, Qantas Freight is also Australia's leading airfreight cargo terminal operator
- Qantas Freight's network of 86 cargo terminals provides ground handling to the Qantas Group and 29 third party airlines



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