

# THE MOON ABOUT ART

A night-time sculpture walk called **La Lune** will light up Long Reef Headland, writes **Elizabeth Fortescue**

If you look to the northern beaches sky next Saturday night and spy a real man in the moon, don't worry, you're not going crazy. The cheerful sight is a video projection — part of a night-time sculpture walk on spectacular Long Reef Headland.

The event, **La Lune: Energy Producing Art** is the culmination of an unusual collaboration between the Warringah Council and an experimental arts unit at the University of NSW.

All the works in it are designed to be experienced at night, and all harness sustainable energy.

A grand opening is planned for next Saturday — complete with a special performance called **Loonatic Spectacular** — in which a video projection will create the impression of a man in the moon.

With sales of food, roving music by **Madame Grande** and a performance by **Leo Bonne** the silent clown, the evening promises to be entertaining and magical.

Exhibition curator **Allan Giddy** is director of the Environmental Research Initiative for Art at the university's College of Fine Arts in Paddington. He uses electronics as part of his own art practice.

ERIA, as it is known, was set up to put art works in to unusual places and provide a platform for artists working with technology, Giddy says.

With the backing of Warringah Council, Giddy invited 20 artists to create works for **La Lune**.

"The brief to artists was to utilise the site to produce energy within art works," he says.

Many of the artists cleverly adapted sustainable energy sources to help them create their works.

For example, **Martin Sims** will "draw" on the grass with stencils. The stencils will block the process of photosynthesis and leave sections of grass yellow instead of green.

Other artists have used solar energy, wind power or magnetic power.

Giddy will exhibit one of his own works at **La Lune** — an evocation of a farmhouse at night, created by erecting solar-powered light panels to resemble windows glowing through the darkness.

And Bondi artist **Helen Sturgess** will project her video art on to the sand below the footbridge on the headland walkway.

In the video, Sturgess is shown making and remaking a child's pink bed with fresh linen.

The work, titled **All My Children**, was inspired by the Indonesian fishing boat, dubbed **SIEV X**, which sank in 2001 killing 353 refugees.

Sturgess says she envisaged the coast as a political and physical "dividing line".

After researching the **SIEV X** tragedy, Sturgess learned of a woman survivor who lost her three daughters when the boat sank.

The woman continues to make a bed for each of her lost daughters every night.

"It was such a powerful image for me," Sturgess says.

Solar power will allow Sturgess to project the video on to the sand.

Artist and architect **Michael Lewarne** is using solar-powered

lighting to present the coastline as an art work, Giddy says.

"He will flash the coast with rhythmic lighting waves."

The art works in **La Lune** will be spaced up to 150 metres apart along the path and will be subtle rather than garish.

"It's definitely not Vegas," Giddy says. "We are just creating points of interest along what is already a beautiful walk."

Giddy's best tip for enjoying the sculptures is to arrive after 5pm. After that, dark will settle and the sculptures will be viewed at their best.

"There's no point in going during the day," he says.

Bring a torch and wear comfortable shoes for the 2km return walk.

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● **La Lune: Energy Producing Art, Long Reef Headland; May 12-18, 5pm-9pm, free, sculpture walk starts from behind Long Reef Beach Surf Club. Parking available at Long Reef Surf Club, off Pittwater Rd, Long Reef**



A video projection of the man in the moon (top) will open the **La Lune** exhibition, which will light up the night at Long Reef beach