



Call for Provocateurs!

Rebooting Futurism @ Victoria University of Wellington – 15 May 2015

The organizers of *Rebooting Futurism* seek proposals for scholarly, scientific, and creative investigations of the legacies of Futurism, to be presented at a one-day conference/symposium/ performance event on 15 May 2015. Proposals representing all disciplines are welcomed, for contributions including but not limited to:

- Pecha Kucha Conference Papers and Micro-Manifestos
- Creative-based research in theatre, dance, cinema, music, and electronic media
- Exhibitions and demonstrations fusing art and science

Unleashed on the world by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti in 1909, Futurism sought to smash convention, and celebrate the triumph of technology. Their manifestos and artworks glorified technology, machinery, and above all, velocity: “the splendor of the world has been enriched by a new beauty: the beauty of speed” (Marinetti 1909). Convinced that humanity was stunted by its senseless veneration of the past, Marinetti and his allies fulminated against aesthetic and intellectual traditions. While most artists and intellectuals were reacting in horror to changes wrought by emerging science and technology, the Futurists celebrated scientific achievement and embraced the future with verve and gusto.

Futurism reached far and wide: renowned artist Len Lye cited Futurism as a major inspiration, and Futurist ideals are implicit in 20th century colonial rhetoric emphasising the ‘Newness’ of New Zealand. Yet for all its exuberance and vigour, Futurism had a disturbing dark side, characterized by arrogance, misogyny, and Fascist sympathies. The Futurists infamously glorified warfare as means to liberate humanity from the stultifying influences of the past.

One hundred years after their zenith, we have realized many of the Futurists’ wildest dreams (*supersonic travel!*) – as well as their worst nightmares (*Feminism! Italy in financial ruins!*). What if Futurism was

(re)born today? How would yesterday's Futurists respond to today's tomorrow? With a new future before it, Futurism needs a re-boot. *Rebooting Futurism* challenges scholars, artists, and scientists to develop projects that synthesize the Futurists' passion for innovation and speed, while questioning their Fascism and misogyny, in the context of contemporary Aotearoa New Zealand. Selected proposals will be presented during a day-long conference and symposium, hosted by Victoria University of Wellington, and culminating in a neo-Futurist banquet and *serata*.

THEMES

- **New New Zealand/ Aotearoa ā mua** – What New New Zealand's might Futurism envision? For what might a Maori Marinetti agitate?
- **Rebooting Futurism** – What is (or might be) the “Neo-Futurist” Aesthetic and Politic?
- **Futurist Fission & Fusion** – How does Futurism productively challenge traditional disciplinary boundaries between humanity and machine, science and art, nature and culture, popular and high culture? What new hybrid forms do contemporary media make possible?
- **The Influence & Legacies of Futurism** in Australasia and Abroad
- **Sintesi** – New performances inspired by and critical of Futurism

SUBMISSIONS

“It is stupid to write 100 pages when one would suffice” (Marinetti).

In the futurist spirit, *Rebooting Futurism* seeks short, dynamic, high-impact contributions. Proposals in or across any of the following categories should embrace innovation in form and content, and contest conventional distinctions between “scholarship,” “science,” “art,” and “entertainment.”

Pecha Kucha Papers – Scholarly papers, investigations, and manifestos in the format of Pecha Kucha (20 slides x 20 seconds).

Performance, Cinema, and Music – Brief (max. 7 minutes) practice- or performance-based inquiries into the themes raised above, which incorporate, blend, and test the boundaries of dance, theatre, music, opera, and digital media.

Visual and Plastic Art – Including sculpture, painting, light, 3D printing.

Please address queries and proposals – including **250-word abstracts** with bios and any special requirements –to rebootingfuturism@gmail.com. The deadline for proposals is **31 January 2015**.