



MONASH UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART
MEDIA KIT

MUMA

SLAVE PIANOS
PUNKASILA
PIPELINE TO OBLIVION
3 PROJECTS BY DANIUŠ KESMINAS AND COLLABORATORS

5 MAY - 23 JULY 2011
CURATOR: MAX DELANY



INTRODUCTION

Australian artist Danius Kesminas is the brainchild behind some of the most ambitious and dynamic contemporary art projects developed in the past decade. Working collaboratively, across diverse disciplines – art, music, performance, video, publishing, agit-prop and opera – *Slave Pianos* | *Punkasila* | *Pipeline to Oblivion* presents three major projects by Danius Kesminas and his respective collaborators.

Slave Pianos is a provocative and highly inventive collective of artists, composers and musicians devoted to the exhibition, collection, analysis, performance and re-composition of sound work by visual artists.

Punkasila is an Indonesian-Australian band and art project, whose name is derived from *Pancasila*, the five tenets devised for the unitary basis of Indonesian nationhood and the music genre of punk. *Punkasila* have evolved to encompass a unique blend of traditional Indonesian crafts, homemade military outfits, machine gun guitars, pop murals and political banners, and 'post-disaster rock' with lyrics that give voice to the cacophony of conflicting political, military, religious, cultural and bureaucratic organisations constituting the Indonesian body politic.

Exploring deep cultural networks, dismantled economic borders, and political implications of Eastern Europe in the post-communist era, *Pipeline to Oblivion* takes as its starting point the discoveries of illegal underground pipelines pumping vodka into Lithuania in the period since the country's admission to the European Union.

EXHIBITION DATES

5 May - 23 July 2011

OPENING FUNCTION

Saturday 7 May 2011 at 3pm.
Monash University Museum of Art, Caulfield Campus.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

There will be a series of public programs run concurrently with the exhibition.

Wednesday 4 May, 12.30pm: Art & Design Lunchtime Forum
Danius Kesminas and Punkasila
Free entry

Thursday 5 May, doors 8pm: Punkasila Live
Ding Dong Lounge, 18 Market Lane, Melbourne
Cost: \$10

Tuesday 17 May, 5-6.30pm: Punkasila Forum
Monash University Museum of Art, Caulfield Campus
Alison Carroll, Danius Kesminas, Julian Millie, Wulan Dirgantoro
Free entry. Bookings required: muma@monash.edu or 99054217

For further details and additional public programs, see
www.monash.edu.au/muma/education/public_programs



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Danius Kesminas was born in Melbourne in 1966, where he continues to live and work.

Working independently and in collaboration with a wide range of artists and groups, he has developed some of the most ambitious and dynamic contemporary art projects over the past decade, encompassing art, music, performance, video, publishing, agit-prop and opera.

Kesminas is a founding member of Slave Pianos, Punksila, The Histrionics, The Happy Endings, among others. His work has been exhibited in galleries, museums, biennales and concert halls internationally, including Budapest, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Havana, Jogjakarta, Kassel, Leningrad, Los Angeles, Moscow and Vilnius; and performed by orchestras and groups including Astra Chamber Music Society, Arditti Quartet, Flux String Quartet, Fluxus, Krasnyi String Quartet, and the Royal Australian Navy Band. With Slave Pianos, he has written three chamber operas which have been performed by Chamber Made Opera (Australia), Astra Choir (Australia) and Neue Aachener Kunstverein (Germany).

Danius Kesminas is among the most active Australian artists on the international stage, and yet there have been few opportunities to experience the full scope of his projects in his home city of Melbourne. *Slave Pianos* | *Punksila* | *Pipeline to Oblivion* presents three major projects by Kesminas and his respective collaborators, building on recent exhibitions in prestigious international contexts including the 5th Asia Pacific Triennale 2006, 17th Sydney Biennale 2010, and 10th Havana Biennial 2010.

CATALOGUE

A full colour catalogue will be produced for *Slave Pianos* | *Punksila* | *Pipeline to Oblivion*, with essays by Max Delany and John C. Welchman.

ABOUT THE MONASH UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART

The Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA) is one of Australia's leading museums of contemporary art. MUMA is home to the Monash University Collection, established in 1961, which is a collection of national significance.

Through its exhibition, collection and public programs, MUMA makes an energetic contribution to, and interaction with, the intellectual and cultural life of the University and broader communities.

MEDIA

From 1-10 May Punksila will be in Melbourne and will be available for interviews.

For all media enquires please contact Sarah Morris on 03 9905 1618 or sarah.morris@monash.edu.