
FOOD FIGHT: THE BATTLE FOR FOOD SECURITY

– C3West

Museum of
Contemporary
Art Australia

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CLASS KIT

FOOD FIGHT: THE BATTLE FOR FOOD SECURITY

– *About C3West*



C3West believes that artists can bring unique value to situations beyond the gallery context.

One of the MCA's key programs; C3West works outside the gallery in Western Sydney communities to engage contemporary artists in creative projects. These projects give a voice to local issues and see artists collaborating with businesses, government and other arts organisations in new ways.

Food Fight: The Battle for Food Security was led by Sydney based artists, Branch Nebula (Lee Wilson and Mirabelle Wouters) and Diego Bonetto. The artists worked in partnership with Liverpool City Council and Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre to raise awareness of the issue of food security.

Food Warrior Paniora Nukunuku in the Food Fight arena.
Branch Nebula and Diego Bonetto, *Food Fight: The Battle for Food Security*, 2016, performance documentation, Liverpool, NSW, event infrastructure designed in collaboration with Future Method Studio, co-commissioned by C3West on behalf of Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and Liverpool City Council, image courtesy and © the artists, photograph: Anna Kučera

WHAT IS FOOD SECURITY?

Fact: *did you know that more than two million people access food relief services each year in Australia, half of whom are children?*

Food security refers to the capacity of individuals, households and communities to access appropriate and nutritionally adequate food on a consistent and reliable basis, using socially acceptable means.

Food insecurity is the constant feeling of anxiety that comes from trying to provide enough food for yourself or your family. It might include periods of food shortage or constantly feeling hungry.

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The right to adequate food is realised when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, has the physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement.

”

United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment 12, 1999

MEET THE ARTISTS

– *Branch Nebula and Diego Bonetto*



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Lee Wilson and Mirabelle Wouters are Branch Nebula. One of Australia’s most dynamic companies, Branch Nebula pushes boundaries as they work across theatre, dance, sport and street-styles.

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Diego Bonetto is an artist and award winning cultural worker based in Sydney. Diego works with chefs, scientists, academics, herbalists, brewers, soap makers, producers and educators to create programs, workshops, and exhibitions that engage communities.

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ART AS A SPECTACLE

A spectacle is a remarkable or impressive sight to experience.

Think about the most exciting, big event you have been to in your life. For example, an amazing sunset or parade.

- List some things that made the event spectacular. Were there lots of people, fireworks, music, or colourful lighting?
- How did people react or express their emotions during the event?



WARM UP



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Food Fight: The Battle for Food Security was a live art event that took place in Bigge Park, Liverpool, on Saturday 30 April, 2016.

Food Fight culminated in a large scale, participatory spectacle that included a banquet meal for 100 people, performances, live cooking demonstrations from local food heroes and a massive food fight held in an inflatable arena.

Over the course of the evening, more than 150 people participated in the event, and over 2,000 people witnessed it live.

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Seated guest in front of the inflatable Food Fight arena. Branch Nebula and Diego Bonetto, *Food Fight: The Battle for Food Security*, 2016, performance documentation, Liverpool, NSW, event infrastructure designed in collaboration with Future Method Studio, co-commissioned by C3West on behalf of Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and Liverpool City Council, image courtesy and © the artists, photograph: Anna Kučera



Branch Nebula and Diego Bonetto, *Food Fight: The Battle for Food Security*, 2016, performance documentation, Liverpool, NSW, event infrastructure designed in collaboration with Future Method Studio, co-commissioned by C3West on behalf of Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and Liverpool City Council, image courtesy and © the artists, photograph: Anna Kučera

Why might an artist choose to create an artwork in the form of a spectacular event?

- Compare this kind of artwork to a traditional art object you would find in a gallery.
- How is the role of the audience different?
- Do you think one art form might be more effective than the other in starting conversations about big issues? Why or why not?



**DISCUSSION
IDEAS**



SOCIALLY ENGAGED ART

WHAT IS SOCIALLY ENGAGED ART?

It often takes a collaborative approach to art making that includes communities and individuals as either participants or co-creators. Projects often respond to an issue, place or situation.

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An artist will ask the questions that beg us to think differently about ourselves and the histories that created our current moment.

”

Amy Franceschini, 'Interview with Amy Franceschini of Future-farmers', *Situations*, 2017

Think of the last item of food you threw out.

- Why did you throw it out? For example, was it rotten?
- What could you have done instead of throwing it out?



WARM UP

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What are some ways you might be able to spread awareness of an issue like food wastage or food security?

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- Think about actions you may be able to take as an individual, in your house, community or even online.
- Look at the following slides to learn about how *Food Fight* spread awareness about food security.



**DISCUSSION
IDEAS**



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Food Fight: The Battle for Food Security undertook a number of projects to raise awareness about food security in the local community. This built on Liverpool City Council's long-standing commitment to facilitating equitable access to food.

For example, students from Liverpool Girls High School were involved in workshops to design a costume for Food Warrior, Dany Ngov, which was worn on the night of the Food Fight performance.

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Top: Liverpool Girls School Students project publicity image

Bottom: Food Warrior Dany Ngov in her costume, surrounded by her Food Fighters Branch Nebula and Diego Bonetto, *Food Fight: The Battle for Food Security*, 2016, Liverpool, NSW, co-commissioned by C3West on behalf of Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and Liverpool City Council, image courtesy and © the artists, photograph: Anna Kučera



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On the night of *Food Fight*, local food heroes from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds, such as Chockeo Bounpraseuth and her mother, cooked meals for a 100-seat al-fresco banquet designed by the artists.

This gave the policy makers, stakeholders, recipients of food relief and community champions invited to the banquet a chance to engage in meaningful dialogue about food security.
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Food Hero Chockeo Bounpraseuth and mother demonstrate their green papaya salad family recipe: Branch Nebula and Diego Bonetto, *Food Fight: The Battle for Food Security*, performance documentation, 2016, Bigge Park, Liverpool. Co-commissioned by Liverpool City Council in collaboration with C3West on behalf of the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia. Event infrastructure designed in collaboration with Future Method Studio. Image courtesy and © the artists and Future Method Studio. Photograph: Anna Kucera

Do you think it is the place of art to tackle issues and encourage public awareness and debate?

Why or why not?

- What do you think the benefits of using art to spread awareness may be?
- If not, what other types of activity might be more effective in spreading awareness?



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EMBODYING IDEAS

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We wanted to find ways to embody ideas physically and viscerally. We want to find ideas we can explore in a real way.

”

Lee Wilson in Nicholas Jordan, ‘Liverpool’s Food Fight’,
Broadsheet, 28 April 2016.



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Branch Nebula use the term “embodying ideas” to describes the way they use materials related to the subject of an artwork to build meaning.

In *Food Fight*, Branch Nebula and Diego Bonetto used wasted food destined for landfill as a material to talk about food insecurity. Food was used in the same way paint, photography or video might be used as a medium for art-making.

Over three rounds in the Liverpool Food Fight, the Food Warriors’ teams entered the inflatable arena, taking part in a fight with rotten tomatoes, beans and strawberries.

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Food Fight: Branch Nebula and Diego Bonetto, *Food Fight: The Battle for Food Security*, performance documentation, 2016, Bigge Park, Liverpool. Co-commissioned by Liverpool City Council in collaboration with C3West on behalf of the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia. Event infrastructure designed in collaboration with Future Method Studio. Image courtesy and © the artists and Future Method Studio. Photograph: Anna Kucera

Branch Nebula and Diego Bonetto used wasted food destined for landfill as a material to talk about food insecurity.

Think of an issue that affects your community, for example littering.

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- Following Branch Nebula’s “embodying ideas” philosophy, what materials could you use to make an artwork to best represent this issue?



**QUICK
ACTIVITY**

By using wasted food to create the spectacle of a food fight, the artists intended to start a discussion with the audience about food wastage.

Do you think using food to create an artwork is justified when talking about food wastage? Why or why not?

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- Why might the artists want to demonstrate their point using wasted food?



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THANK YOU!