

Powerhouse Museum Alliance

The Powerhouse Museum Alliance (PMA) congratulates Jenny Kee and Linda Jackson on the launch of their major retrospective exhibition *Step into Paradise*, now on show at the Powerhouse Museum until 22 March 2020.

The exhibition explores their creative partnership, their long careers as fashion designers and textile artists, and the ideas and environments that have inspired their work over more than forty years.

The Powerhouse Museum was one of the first museums to collect the work of Jenny Kee and Linda Jackson. It now holds an extensive collection and archive documenting their creative processes.

Jennifer Sanders, the museum's first curator of textiles and dress recalls:

"I was thrilled to acquire Jenny Kee's *Opera House* dress and coat, and Linda Jackson's *Olga Goddess* for the museum's collection in 1980. These definitive examples of their work were the genesis of what is now an unrivalled public collection. A generation of design students has drawn inspiration from the museum's collection of Jenny Kee and Linda Jackson's work, and from their archives which reveal their creative processes."

These notable acquisitions were the start of a long association with the Powerhouse. In 2003 Jenny Kee and Linda Jackson were made Life Fellows of the museum. Inexplicably, this prestigious recognition for major donors and contributors to the museum has all but disappeared from public view and public record.

PMA urges all the museum's supporters to see the *Step into Paradise* exhibition which is on show in the Wran building, one of the most beautiful exhibition spaces in Australia.

Under the government's plan to 'move' the museum to Parramatta, this significant Sulman award winning building will be demolished and replaced by a 70 storey super tower. *Step into Paradise* will be the last major Powerhouse exhibition to show in this space, unless the community can stop the government's wasteful demolition of a great public museum.

It is not too late to stop the government's museum demolition plans. See the exhibition, explore the museum and let the government know if you think it is reckless waste of money to demolish a great museum that opened only 31 years ago.

Distinguished museum leaders here and overseas deplore the government's world first museum demolition plans. Sydney needs more museums, not museum shrinkage.

The Powerhouse Museum must stay intact in Ultimo, where it has been part of the education, design and creative life of Sydney since 1892. Parramatta should have a new museum that is unique to its cultures, place and stories. And the government should prepare a fair and equitable museum plan for NSW, one that supports museums and communities in Western Sydney and regional NSW, and landmark museums in Sydney.

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[Keep the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo, and build a brilliant new museum in Parramatta
powerhousemuseumalliance.com](http://powerhousemuseumalliance.com)

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