



Test of Time

A participatory art experience
for community

Information for presenting partners

Test of Time is an art experience in which community members share their stories of personal possessions that have stood the test of time.

Conceived by Cynthia Schwertsik, and developed and presented in collaboration with Emma Beech, *Test of Time* works with local communities to gather personal objects and the stories that have made them significant. These objects are collected, their stories documented and they are then offered for sale at a live auction held in the community.

Test of Time is an art event that reflects on our possessions and how we give value to these things through shared storytelling. It is an honouring of things that have served us well, and wish to see continue to serve, while appreciating our investment in them. It combines local stories with the excitement of an auction which focuses on the value of things through their stories.

What's involved?

By hosting *Test of Time* you will be inviting presenters Cynthia Schwertsik and Emma Beech to spend one week in residency in your community. During this time they will identify and connect with local participants to gather the objects and stories they are willing to gift to the project.

At the end of this week, the *Test of Time* live auction will be held. This has proven to be a fun and entertaining event which all ages and demographics of the community can participate in and enjoy. The auction will ideally be presented during or in conjunction with another local event or festival, or alternatively it could be scheduled as a stand-alone event. All proceeds from the auction will be donated to a local charity, to be determined with you and your community ahead of the event.

By presenting *Test of Time* in your community you will:

- Host an entertaining and thought provoking participatory art event
- Give community members an opportunity to learn more about one another through their 'things' and their shared and sometimes surprising histories
- Engage two local participants, as community liaison and auctioneer, to further embed *Test of Time* as a local, community event
- Give back to a local charity through the auction proceeds
- Engage community as participants and audience, pushing the boundaries of the expectations of a public art project

Event Audience

Test of Time is suitable for participants of all ages and demographics. We would like to work closely with your community to see as much diversity in audience participation as possible. Young auction bidders will be accompanied by a legal guardian.

Participants

Members of community willing to offer an object and share its story for sale at the auction choose if the story told about the object identifies them in any way or if they remain anonymous. We can visit them at their home to collect and document the object, or they can come and meet us at a local venue to be determined. Participants under 18 years of age are encouraged to engage with a legal guardian present.

Project and venue requirements

To present *Test of Time* in your community we will need your support to achieve the following:

Project development

- Connect with willing participants in your community during the one-week residency prior to the event. We see this process being supported by a community liaison person who is embedded in the local community and require your assistance to identify a suitable person for this role
- Provide a space during the one-week residency where community members can meet with us to bring their objects and share their stories, if they do not wish to be visited at home
- Provide a safe space to store the objects ahead of the auction
- Promote the project and auction event to a wide local audience

Event

- Recommendations for a local auctioneer to drive the auction bidding
- a suitable, accessible venue in which to hold the auction. Capacity to be determined by you and your expectation for audience numbers
- a trestle table and possibly two microphones, depending on size of the venue
- any specific accessibility requirements determined by the host community (e.g. AUSLAN interpreter)
- Catering- to be determined by the community, the time of day of the event and if it is part of a wider event or festival

Cost to present

A fee of \$2,700 per artist for 7 days (includes per diem, superannuation and insurance) for the residency and auction event.

Additional costs to be determined or provided in kind: artist accommodation and travel, local community liaison, auctioneer roles and presentation/venue costs as outlined above.

For more information please [visit the project website](#)

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