



**3 MARCH 2016
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OPENING WEEK BREAKS RECORDS AT LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY

The University Of Western Australia's Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery has experienced its biggest opening week ever, with record-breaking crowds attending the first full week of exhibitions for 2016.

Visitors flocked to see the first Australian solo exhibition by internationally acclaimed artist Bharti Kher, and a one-off exhibition of largely never-before-seen Aboriginal, Melanesian and Asian art from the university's Berndt Museum collection.

Working out of Delhi, Kher has attracted global attention through record auction results for her remarkable work: *The Skin Speaks a Language not its Own*. She is also a recent recipient of the Chevalier Order of Arts and Letters.

The surge in interest has resulted in the single largest attendance figures for the first full week of exhibitions since records began. More than twice as many people attended than in the first full week of 2015.

UWA Cultural Precinct Director Professor Ted Snell said, "Bharti Kher's work looks at meaning, mythology and identity and presents a thoroughly modern view of culture and life.

"We expected Perth audiences to respond well to her first Australian solo exhibition, but to see results like these so early is very encouraging.

“We’re a city and state where cultures collide and coalesce all the time, often without us even realising it. Seeing how an artist can deliberately work with and shape those concepts is very exciting

“When an exhibition of this calibre opens you can expect preview showings and the opening night to go well. For us at least, the real test comes a week later when the exhibitions open to the public.

“We’re so excited that people are connecting with the art and taking time out of their lives to experience two exhibitions we’re very proud of.”

***Bharti Kher: In Her Own Language* is presented as part of the Perth International Arts Festival and is open until 16 April.**

***Interwoven* is open until 9 April.**

A video (1:42) of the opening night is available for download and can be viewed [here](#). It features:

- Bharti Kher
- Exhibition Curator Margaret Moore
- Author and social commentator Jane Caro

ABOUT THE CULTURAL PRECINCT

The Cultural Precinct is the University of Western Australia’s cultural hub, supporting the music, theatre, exhibition programs and broader arts and cultural events that take place throughout the year.

Conceived as a ‘park with buildings’, UWA is arguably one of the most beautiful campuses in Australia. Sited throughout its heritage-listed gardens are many sculptures, murals and notable buildings, including the Octagon & Dolphin theatres, the Sunken Garden, Somerville Auditorium and the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery. This fusion of culture, nature and learning provides visitors with an experience unique in Western Australia.

For further information, interviews and images, please contact John McCarten on 0403 900 193 or john.mccarten@uwa.edu.au

The Cultural Precinct maintains an extensive library of professional-quality photography. To request an image, contact Clare McFarlane on 08 6488 7806 or clare.mcfarlane@uwa.edu.au

Image: Bharti Kher, VIRUS VI (Blue) (detail), 2015, [Blue] mahogany, brass bindis, ribbon, 28 x 35 x 0.5cm & 30 x 40 x 0.5cm Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth