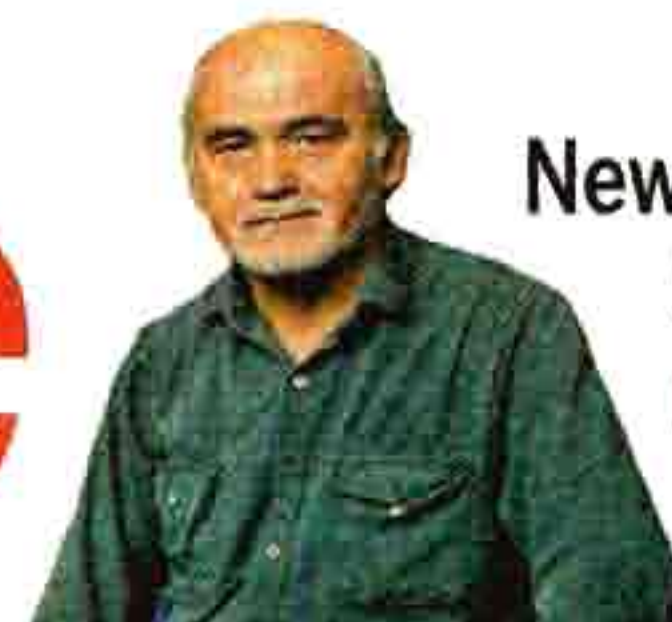


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Common spud, so entrancing

ART

Sarah McInerney

HE lives and breathes potato through his art but Jeffrey Allen Price still loves eating them.

The New York artist and art professor is one of the contributors to The Humble Spud! exhibition, part of Marrickville Council's Art in the Park event this weekend.

Curated by Brendan Penzer from At The Vanishing Point gallery, its theme was chosen in reference to 2008 being the United Nations' International Year of the Potato.

Allen Price has sent over a multimedia piece which sees him recite the word potato repeatedly for an hour.

It is aptly titled I never get tired of saying potato.

"The piece is about solely focusing the potato and focusing on it till I'm in a trance, and it's funny too," he said.

"It is not easy to say the word so many times and still have it sound like the word potato."

He began working with potato in 1996 and said it encompassed the full range of artistic possibilities.

It is an efficient and abundant crop that connects people around the world but it is also ugly, common and funny, he said.

This practice has seen him start up potato radio where he broadcasts online songs featuring the spud, sculpt mashed potato into obelisk form and dive onto a pile of two-day old roast potatoes.

"The one thing I've noticed is that it makes people smile a lot," he said of his art.

"It is approachable. I have had no controversial responses but people have thought I was crazy."

Three contributions to the exhibition by Sydney artists will see the energy-producing potential of the potato harnessed.

Marrickville artist Peter McGuinness will undertake a wedding and burial with a potato and a mango.

Art in the Park is on Sunday from 11am to 4pm at Maundrell Park in Petersham.

You say potahto, I say potato

Artist Jeffrey Allen Price has taken his love of the humble spud to another level, videoing himself reciting the word 'potato' for an hour (above). 'The piece is about solely focusing on the potato . . . until I'm in a trance.'