

THE ARTS

SPACE

Debate over Haring mural intensifies

WITH Arts Victoria expected to lodge an application with the Victorian Heritage Council to start conservation work on late New York artist Keith Haring's last surviving large-scale mural in Australia — painted on the wall of the former Collingwood Technical College in 1984 — the plan has triggered a less than positive response from Melbourne art figures and the Keith Haring Foundation. While the initial Arts Victoria conservation plan recommends "stabilisations works, cleaning and selective retouching", opponents to the plan, such as Austra-

lian Centre for Contemporary Art associate curator Hannah Mathews, who has gained the support of the City of Yarra and Greens MP Adam Bandt, argue that the badly weathered mural should be repainted as the artist wanted. savemelbourneharing-mural.com.au



Volley folly

IT SEEMS everyone has tennis on the brain. In a pitch that, from all reports, has confounded London's Royal Parks authority, German artist Tobias Rehberger has proposed to construct a full-size tennis court in Hyde Park as something of an offbeat, nonetheless interactive, public art installation in the lead-up to Wimbledon. To top it off, Rehberger — a leading artist and Venice Biennale representative for Germany in 2009 — has invited the likes of Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and other top players to face off on the yet-to-be-approved artwork. royalparks.gov.uk/hyde-park

Festival to host exhibition with Grace

IN AN exciting time for the thread-savvy, the L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival has announced this year's cultural program to coincide with the March 8-15 event, with an interesting clutch of exhibition content. While NGV will host the first major public exhibition of work by iconic Australian fashion designer Linda Jackson, Richmond's Sophie Gannon Gallery adds a little contemporary flare with *Fashion Loves Art Loves Fashion*, a



show pairing artists such as Del Kathryn Barton and Nan Goldin with fashion designers such as Romance was Born and Scanlan & Theodore. Perhaps the jewel in the program's crown is Bendigo Art Gallery's *Grace Kelly: Style Icon*, an extensive exhibition tracing the imagery and couture of one of the most photographed women in history. lmff.com.au

Art history online

THE University of Adelaide and the Art Gallery of South Australia have joined forces to create what is by all accounts the world's first online art history education program as part of its masters of arts (studies in art history) course. The course uses recorded lectures, real-time tutorials and virtual classrooms that grant access to Art Gallery of South Australia collections not accessible to the public. With enrolments from Asia, North America and all around Australia, all a student needs is an internet connection. Oh, yes, and an undergraduate degree, of course. unisa.edu.au

Fair on film

IN ITS second year, the VIP Art Fair has emerged as the key online space for the viewing and acquisition of new works by leading artists. Opening on February 3, this year's fair features a glut of high-profile commercial galleries, including the likes of the Gagosian Gallery and London's White Cube, not to mention an Australian contingent of Roslyn Oxley9 and Anna Schwartz Gallery, which will show the Russian art collective AES+F (pictured). Starting today, the fair will host a series of online preview films and discussions with some of the industry's major protagonists, including Sotheby's Institute



professor Lowell Petit discussing contemporary art and investment consultant Michael Plummer speaking on Asia, the Middle East and Latin America's ever-growing art market. vipartfair.com DAN RULE