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Sydney Opera House's white sails turn into giant canvas for spectacular light display

By [Mail Foreign Service](#)

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Bathed in an ever-changing display of brilliant light, this is Sydney Opera House as you've never been seen it before.

The iconic building - famed throughout the world for its graceful white 'sails' - has been transformed into a canvas for a kaleidoscopic array of images.

Called 77 Million Paintings, the installation is the work of artist and music producer Brian Eno and features 300 of his drawings.

He told the BBC he wanted people to 'surrender to another kind of world,' as they watched the transformations.



Spectacular: Sydney Opera House is lit up by a stunning array of ever-changing colours and patterns



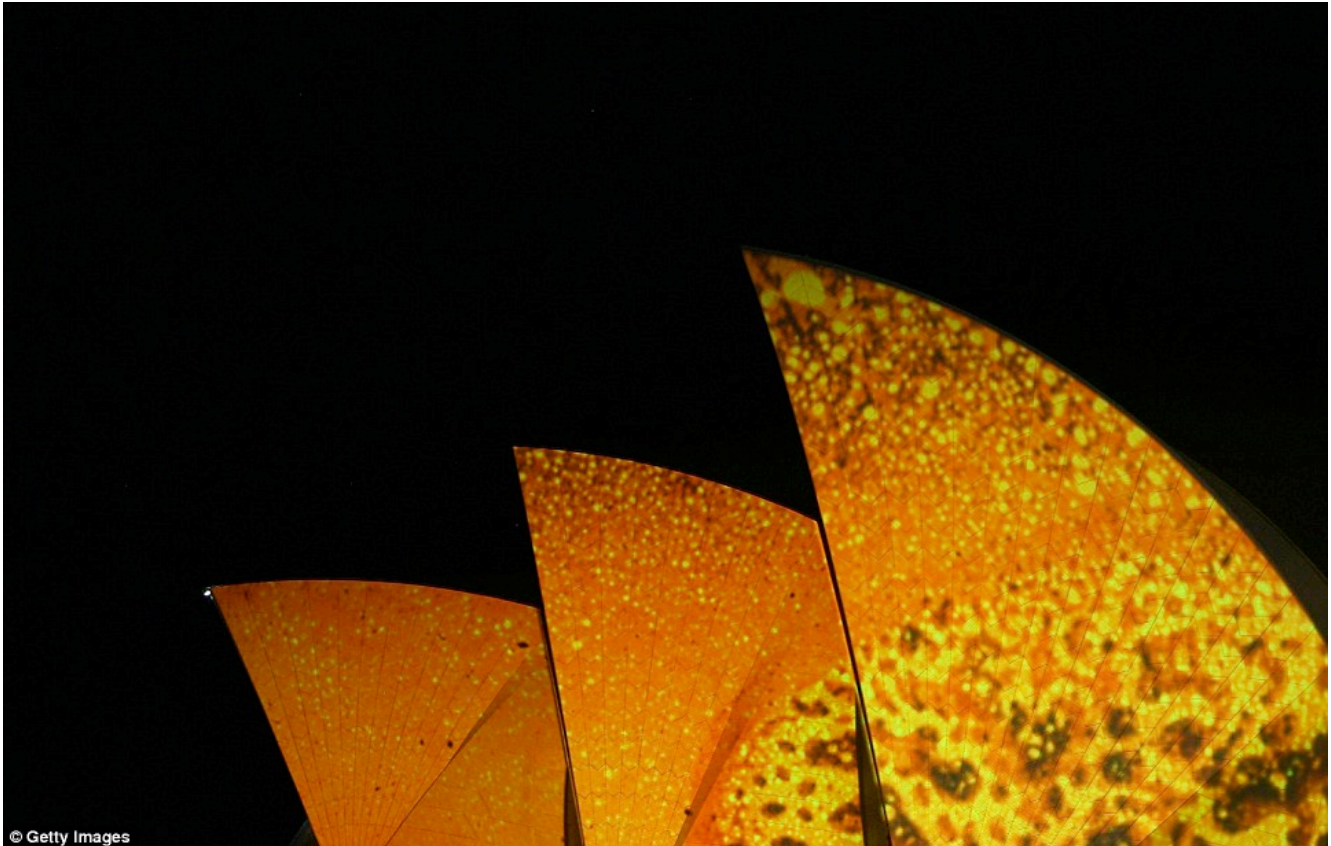
'All the things that humans do, including imagining, are the way we deal with emergencies including the global financial crisis,' he said.

'So to imply, "oh God, there's a crisis, no time for imagining any more" - it's not true.

'This is the time for imagining and the way we learn to imagine, one of the ways we learn to imagine, is through the experience of art.

'The human ability to imagine made people capable of surviving

'By allowing ourselves to let go of the world that we have to be part of every day, and to surrender to another kind of world, we're allowing imaginative processes to take place.'



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Glowing: The work, called 77 Million Paintings, was designed by Brian Eno who used 300 of his drawings to create it



© Getty Images

Brian Eno

77 Million Paintings is part of the Opera House's Luminous festival, which features music and performances from around the world.

The light display which run every evening for the three weeks of the event, which is being curated by Eno, 61, who began his career with Roxy Music.

It has already been shown at the Venice Biennale and the Milan Triennale, as well as in Tokyo, London and San Francisco and features 'self-generating software' to compose entirely random designs.

There is also a soundtrack to accompany the light show.



Iconic: The distinctive opera house appears almost unrecognisable as it flushes brilliant pink

'We are not colouring in the opera house, we're actually kind of taking the art of the opera house and raising it to a different level,' the institution's chief executive Richard Evans told the BBC.

'It's a number of colours which kind of meld into one another and move around, sometimes quickly, sometimes very, very slowly, most times quite slowly.'

'As you watch it, it's a very meditative experience.'



Star attraction: The event is expected to draw thousands of visitors as part of the Luminous festival which runs for three weeks

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