

## Artist finds solace in a womb with a view

Adam Fulton Published: September 8, 2011 - 1:43PM

For Hiromi Tango, home is not just where the art is - the art is a home.

The heavily pregnant artist has built a cubby house-like construction so she can feel just like the baby she is due to deliver in a fortnight.

"It's my womb," the Japanese-Australian artist said of *Hiromi Hotel: Mixed Blood*, made of twine, wool, letters, plastic flowers, dolls, personal effects, a bed and all sorts else. The colourful refuge, in which viewers will be encouraged to sit or lie down while soft music plays, is among more than 30 artworks in the Museum of Contemporary Art's annual Primavera exhibition of work from Australian artists aged 35 and under, opening today.



Art imitating life ... Hiromi Tango, who is eight months pregnant, with her portable womb, made from materials including plastic flowers and dolls for the Primavera exhibition. Photo: Lee Besford

Tango, from Brisbane, said she had travelled around Australia for the past two years with her partner and had not had a regular home.

"I wanted to feel what it's like to be inside the womb itself," she said of her piece.

"It's the ultimate comfort and protected area. But it's still mobile. It's a nomad womb."

Tango, 35, and other artists will be involved in performances this weekend as part of the exhibition, on until November 13.

"I treat my body as a moving site and my identity at the time is reflected on the work," she said.

Being heavily pregnant, "I should be feeling quite motherly and calm, hopefully".

The 20th annual Primavera exhibition also includes sculpture, drawing, video, photography and performance-based works. As the \$53 million redevelopment of the Museum of Contemporary Art continues, the show will be exhibited for the first time away from the museum in a variety of what it calls "unexpected and surprising" spots around The Rocks. *Hiromi Hotel* is in the Cleland Bond building on Playfair Street.

Other exhibition highlights include Keg de Souza's inflatable sculpture made of hand-stitched umbrella skins, referencing the history of The Rocks. Tessa Zettel and Karl Khoe have turned a red English phone booth into a *Doctor Who*-style time machine in which viewers can choose a past era and hear Sydney voices from that time.