

A challenge to think inside the box



In the frame: Leanne and Naomi Shedlezki Picture: Katrina Tepper

ART Month Sydney opens today, and there are scores of ways to join in.

One of the more intriguing ones is to collect a special matchbox from artist twins Leanne and Naomi Shedlezki and use it as a frame for your very own portrait of Sydney.

The duo created Match Box Projects in 2006 to emphasise that great cities and towns are the sum total of the people who live there.

In *People Make Places: Sydney Portraits*, their Art Month Sydney project, they are throwing to the locals to show just what sort of place Sydney really is.

A matchbox can be collected from the Shedlezkis during Art Month from The Rocks Pop-Up location at 47 George St (enter off Atherden St). The matchbox can then be taken home and transformed into an artwork, then dropped back to the Shedlezkis.

“They all come together as one large portrait,” Naomi says.

Completed matchboxes will be displayed during Art Month, and will later travel overseas. Other matchbox collections, presented in perspex cases, have been exhibited around Australia and in Japan, China and the

US, and “anyone that takes part can follow the journey”, Naomi says.

The twins’ website and Facebook page also track the moving matchboxes.

The Match Box Projects website contains guidelines for Customs purposes, but otherwise the sky’s the limit for what kind of artwork can be done inside a matchbox. Participants can paint or draw inside their matchboxes, create tiny installations or introduce a photograph.

Matchboxes can be collected on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and at other times which will be advertised



each week on the website, www.matchboxprojects.com.

The Shedlezkis, who launched a guide to Sydney’s artist-run initiatives in 2009, will also be leading free tours of these ARIs during Art Month.

Art Month Sydney is staged by Sydney’s art galleries and aims to widen the audience.

Elizabeth Fortescue

Matchbox Projects tours of Sydney’s artist-run spaces, March 10, 11, 17 and 18, free, reservations on artmonthsydney.com.au