

NGA

National Gallery of Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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FROM *DEFYING EMPIRE* TO THE SPLENDOUR OF *CARTIER*: 2017-18 AT THE NGA

From the Indigenous struggle for recognition, to the glitz and glamour of the Cartier collection, and the unsettling Hyperreal movement in between, the National Gallery of Australia will present in 2017-18 three unique exhibitions exploring contemporary and traditional art.

The NGA kicks off a trifecta of special exhibitions with the 3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial: *Defying Empire* (26 May – 10 September 2017). The exhibition surveys the contemporary practice of 30 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, responding to the 50th Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum through a diverse group of works, all of which reference the fight for recognition. The contributing artists examine issues relating to identity, history, politics, and connections to country and community. The exhibition is supported by Wesfarmers Arts and is free.

Moving from the real to the Hyperreal, an in-depth survey of human figuration, *Hyper Real: Sculpture 1973 – 2017*, will be on display from 20 October 2017 to 18 February 2018. Hyperrealism, paralleling photorealism in painting, commenced in the 1960s and 70s when a number of sculptors became interested in a form of sculptural realism based on a vivid and lifelike representation of the human figure.

Presenting major works from the 30 artists most representative of this movement, the exhibition spans more than fifty years of hyperrealist practice. Featured artists include the leading American pioneers of hyperrealist sculpture George Segal, Duane Hanson and John DeAndrea; Juan Muñoz (Spain), Maurizio Cattelan (Italy), Berlinde de Bruyckere (Belgium), and Evan Penny (Canada), among others. Australian artists Ron Mueck, Sam Jinks and Patricia Piccinini will also feature significantly in the exhibition.

A breathtaking collection of the world's most exquisite jewels is coming to Australia with *Cartier: The Exhibition* (30 March – 22 July 2018), showcasing more than 300 spectacular items. Exhibition themes include Icons of Style, The Age of Glamour, and Royal Style with loans from royal families, celebrities and the astonishing Cartier collection itself. Portraits, costumes and film will evoke the glamorous world of the Maison Cartier and its clients. Never before will so many incredible diamonds, emeralds and other precious stones, in exquisite settings such as royal tiaras, have come to Australia.

Defying Empire

3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial
26 May 2017 – 10 September 2018
Free

Hyper Real: Sculpture 1973 – 2017

20 October 2017 – 18 February 2018

Cartier: The Exhibition

30 March 2018 – 22 July 2018

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