

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**MONDAY 29 OCTOBER 2018**

## **THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCES 2019 PROGRAM**

The National Gallery of Australia today announced it will open two major international exhibitions in winter and summer of 2019. The 2019 program also includes a redesigned sculpture gallery, a major rehang of Australian art, the opening of a Yayoi Kusama infinity room, the acquisition of an Urs Fischer 'candle' sculpture, and new interactive creative learning centre and children's gallery thanks to the generosity of Tim Fairfax AC.

'The dimension and the depth of the 2019 artistic program defines the significant role of the national collection, ensuring the National Gallery continues to be an important reference point for art for all Australians,' said National Gallery Director Nick Mitzevich. 'We are excited to be re-imagining Australian art, telling new stories through the eyes of many great artists and bringing the best of international art to Canberra.'

The 2019 program involves partnerships with some of the world's best museums and galleries including the Tate, Musée Marmottan and generous loans from The Met, MoMA and the National Gallery, London. Partnerships with Wesfarmers and the Seven Network are also supporting major new initiatives in bringing art to broad and diverse audiences.

### **2019 PROGRAM**

#### **MAJOR EXHIBITIONS**

##### ***LOVE AND DESIRE: PRE-RAPHAELITE MASTERPIECES FROM THE TATE***

(14 December 2018—28 April 2019)

In a world exclusive, two of Britain's most-loved paintings—*Ophelia* and *The Lady of Shalott*—leave the walls of the Tate together for the first time in an exhibition of more than 100 works. This summer blockbuster at the National Gallery explores the radical 19<sup>th</sup> century Pre-Raphaelite movement's depictions of love, desire, romance, religion and life featuring key works by John Everett Millais, John William Waterhouse, William Holman Hunt and Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Tickets on sale now.

##### ***MONET: IMPRESSION SUNRISE***

(7 June—18 August 2019)

This exhibition from the Impressionist master, Claude Monet, features world-famous paintings from the Musée Marmottan Monet including the 1872 work, *Impression Sunrise*, which was the origin for the term 'Impressionism'. In a major coup for Australian audiences, it's the first time this painting has been seen in the Southern Hemisphere. The exhibition—curated by Marianne Mathieu, Assistant Director of the Musée Marmottan Monet—also includes key paintings by JMW Turner, whose early works inspired Monet, along with other Impressionist artists influenced by one of the greatest painters and founders of Impressionism. *Monet: Impression Sunrise* will be shown in a newly designed gallery space and is not to be missed. Presented in partnership with Art Exhibitions Australia and Musée Marmottan Monet, Paris.

## **MATISSE / PICASSO**

(13 December 2019—13 April 2020)

Explore the relationship between two of the world's greatest artists and rivals—from Picasso's untameable approach to Matisse's seductive irresistibility—responding to each other's work throughout their careers. Curated by the National Gallery of Australia, this exhibition includes major works sourced from public and private collections around the world.

## **NEW PROGRAMS**

### **NEW CHILDREN'S GALLERY AND CREATIVE LEARNING CENTRE**

(Mid 2019)

In a major investment in education, the National Gallery is designing a new permanent children's gallery to inspire the thousands of young people who visit each year. It will be supported by an online resource centre for teachers, parents and students nationwide. Adjacent to the Children's Gallery will be the National Gallery's first creative learning centre, dedicated to the exploration and making of art in all its forms. The gallery and learning centre have been made possible through the generosity of Tim Fairfax AC who has donated \$2million towards the project. Mr Fairfax continues to be one of the Gallery's biggest supporters and one of Australia's leading philanthropists for the arts.

### **MAJOR NEW INDIGENOUS COMMISSION FOR THE WORLD STAGE**

(From October 2019)

Indigenous Arts Partner, Wesfarmers Arts, collaborates with the National Gallery to commission a major new work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art to be shown on the world stage. The piece will be part of a major touring Indigenous art exhibition throughout Asia, including Singapore and China in 2020.

## **NEW COLLECTION INITIATIVES**

### ***BODIES OF ART: HUMAN FORM FROM THE NATIONAL COLLECTION***

(From December 2018)

Two bold new sculpture galleries traverse genre, gender and time through investigations of the human form with a huge array of extraordinary works of art including Jeff Koons' *Balloon Venus Dolni Vestonice*, Peruvian figures from 900AD and Francis Bacon's *Triptych*. The galleries place contemporary and ancient works side-by-side to examine the human figure throughout art history. Free.

### **YAYOI KUSAMA INFINITY ROOM**

(From December 2018)

Cult contemporary artist Yayoi Kusama comes to the National Gallery with one of her popular infinity rooms. *The Spirits of the Pumpkins Descended into the Heavens 2015* is an immersive installation of endless reflection, yellow pumpkins and black dots and was acquired for the national collection thanks to the generosity of Andrew and Hiroko Gwinnett for the Japanese Art Fund. Free.

### **URS FISCHER SCULPTURE**

(From March 2019)

Greeting visitors in the National Gallery foyer, this new acquisition from one of the art world's stars will be unveiled in early 2019. The four-metre high wax 'candle' sculpture, *Francesco 2017*, by Swiss artist Urs Fischer is in continuous transformation, melting under the heat of candle flame. The life-like figure of Italian art curator, Francesco Bonami, is captured in red paraffin wax looking at his smartphone in a pose emblematic of our era. The sculpture melts over time and visitors can watch its intriguing metamorphosis. Free.

## **REIMAGINING AUSTRALIAN ART**

(From December 2019)

The national collection will be rehung in larger galleries and include diverse voices in an exploration of Australia's visual cultural identity. Visitors can experience an Australian art journey that explores our history through the eyes of artists and provides new ways of seeing ourselves. An integrated Australian collection will be rehung every year, giving visitors the opportunity to learn something new each time they come to the Gallery and experience the depth of their national collection. Free.

## **EXHIBITIONS**

### ***MĀORI MARKINGS: TĀ MOKO***

(23 March—25 August 2019)

By marking the skin and face with connecting patterns, Māori Tā Moko artists tell stories of prestige, authority and identity. To receive and wear Moko is a great cultural privilege. Captivating photographs, paintings and sculptures trace the history of Tā Moko from the 18th century to its contemporary resurgence, including illustrations created during Captain Cook's first voyages to Māori Chiefs. This exhibition includes a unique art event featuring Moko artists engaging in a live demonstration of this phenomenal practice. Free.

### ***CONTEMPORARY WORLDS: INDONESIA***

(21 June—27 October 2019)

Featuring 20 emerging and established artists, *Contemporary Worlds: Indonesia* showcases the vibrant and complex art of Australia's closest neighbour, bringing together practitioners from Bali and Java's key artistic centres of Yogyakarta, Jakarta, and Bandung. Presenting new acquisitions and commissions from artists such as Melati Suryodarmo, FX Harsono and Eko Nugroho, this is an exciting exhibition dedicated to the best of contemporary Indonesian art. Free.

### ***LICHTENSTEIN TO WARHOL: THE KENNETH TYLER COLLECTION***

(7 September 2019—February 2020)

Following World War II, master printer Kenneth Tyler was at the forefront of printmaking innovation in America, orchestrating the move from printmaking as a minor artform to a leading visual practice. Through his workshops, Tyler empowered major post-war artists—Josef and Anni Albers, Helen Frankenthaler, Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein, Joan Mitchell, Robert Motherwell, Robert Rauschenberg, Donald Sultan and Andy Warhol—to create print works on a grand scale, using ground-breaking techniques. Free.

### ***SALLY SMART***

(10 November 2018—27 May 2019)

An interactive and magical exhibition of collage, cut-out assemblages and dance by Sally Smart will take over the National Gallery Play space. Smart has researched the Ballets Russes over many years and many recent exhibitions have reflected the inspiration she finds in its avant-garde nature. She brings this unique knowledge and insight along with the perspective of an artist to breathe life into the extraordinary collection of costumes held in the national collection. Free.

### ***HUGH RAMSAY***

(30 November 2019—March 2020)

Delve into the paintings, portraits and sketchbooks of seminal Australian artist Hugh Ramsay, whose brilliant career was cut short at just 28. The young artist shot to fame when four works were selected for the New Salon in Paris in 1902, a feat unheard of in expatriate circles. Revel in his insights into the human condition as the National Gallery reveals his paintings, drawings and works on paper from around Australia. Free.

## **TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS**

The National Gallery not only showcases the best of Australian and international art within its walls, but also shares the national collection around the country. Travelling exhibitions in 2019 include:

- ***Picasso: The Vollard Suite***  
*Art Gallery of South Australia, SA: Until 3 February 2019*  
*Ballarat Art Gallery, VIC: 22 February—28 April 2019*  
Pablo Picasso's Vollard Suite is regarded as one of the greatest print series ever made. This exhibition provides a rare chance to view the complete set of 100 etchings, engravings and aquatints.
- ***The National Picture: The Art of Tasmania's Black War***  
*Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, TAS: Until 17 February 2019*  
Experience the work of colonial artists in Tasmania from the declaration of martial law in Van Diemen's Land in 1828 and the beginnings of George Augustus Robinson's ill-fated 'Friendly Mission', through to Duterrau's death in 1851. Works dating from the 1820s to now explore the issues raised in these challenging artworks.
- ***Defying Empire: NIAT III***  
*Western Plains Cultural Centre, NSW: 9 March—5 May 2019*  
*Mildura Art Gallery, NSW: 26 July—13 October 2019*  
*Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, TAS: 15 November 2019—9 February 2020*  
Featuring diverse work by 30 Indigenous artists, *Defying Empire* surveys contemporary art by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists responding to the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, which granted Indigenous peoples the right to be counted as Australians for the first time.
- ***Sidney Nolan's Ned Kelly series***  
*Murray Art Museum, Albury, NSW: Until 17 February 2019*  
*Geelong Art Gallery, VIC: 1 March—26 May 2019*  
*Riddoch Art Gallery, SA: 21 June—4 August 2019*  
*Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, NT: 5 October—16 February 2020*  
The National Gallery's collection of 26 'Ned Kelly' paintings provides a masterclass on Australian art history, and the development of figuration and landscape painting in Australian art. Experience one of the greatest series of 20th century Australian paintings as it tours the country for the first time in 15 years.
- ***David Hockney: Prints***  
*Cairns Art Gallery Cairns, QLD: 15 February—21 April 2019*  
*Araluen Art Centre Alice Springs, NT: 3 May—16 June 2019*  
*Hazlehurst Regional Gallery, NSW: 28 June—2 August 2019*  
*Mornington Peninsula Art Gallery, VIC: 12 October—1 December 2020*  
Drawing from the National Gallery's collection of David Hockney's works on paper from 1961 to now, this exhibition highlights the depth and scope of the artist's printmaking output. Hockney's prints range from using lithography and etching, photocopiers and fax machines, and – most recently – iPhones and iPads. *David Hockney: Prints* is a thrilling insight into the mind of an iconic artist still searching for new ways of seeing.

- **Art Deco**

*Tweed Regional Art Gallery Murwillumbah, NSW: 24 May—24 August 2019*

*Ipswich Art Gallery, QLD: 7 September—27 October 2019*

*Horsham Art Gallery, VIC: 16 November 2019—2 February 2020*

Coming to fruition after the First World War, Art Deco was a style for the new century.

Informing art, architecture, fashion and design, Art Deco cast off the excessive embellishment of a previous era in favour of elegant form, vivid colour and an international outlook. Drawn from the rich collections of the National Gallery, this exhibition explores the ways in which Australian artists embraced, adapted and advanced this seminal modernist style.

With special thanks to the National Gallery of Australia's Strategic Partner, Visit Canberra.

Visit our website [nga.gov.au](http://nga.gov.au) for more information.

**IMAGES:** [nga.gov.au/aboutus/press/](http://nga.gov.au/aboutus/press/)

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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