

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**16 FEBRUARY 2018**

**THE ROARING TWENTIES: ART DECO OPENS AT NGA**

Today the NGA captures the excitement and hopefulness of post-World War I Australia with the opening of *Art Deco*, a free exhibition featuring 20<sup>th</sup> century paintings, sculptures, fashion, photographs and decorative arts drawn entirely from the national collection. In the 1920s and 30s, Australian artists rejected wartime austerity and created images of an abundant nation characterised by youth and vigour, glamour and jazz.

*Art Deco* includes one of the NGA's greatest long-hidden treasures: Napier Waller's *I'll put a girdle round about the Earth* 1933. A preliminary painting for Waller's famous mosaic on Newspaper House on Collins Street in Melbourne, this enormous three-panelled work has been lovingly restored by NGA conservators over the last two years to be presented for the first time in its entirety in Canberra since the NGA's opening in 1982.

'*I'll put a girdle round about the Earth* embodies Art Deco's fascination with the meeting of art, architecture and technology,' said Deborah Hart, NGA Senior Curator Australian Art. '*Art Deco* explores a remarkable moment in time, and it's fantastic to bring a range of masterworks – including Rayner Hoff's architectural frieze *Deluge – stampede of the lower gods* 1927 and Jean Broome-Norton's sculpture *Woman with horses* 1934 – together for our visitors.'

*Art Deco* is now on display in the NGA's Australian Art Galleries.

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

Ashley Zmijewski  
Head of Marketing and Communications  
National Gallery of Australia  
E: [ashley.zmijewski@nga.gov.au](mailto:ashley.zmijewski@nga.gov.au)  
T: 02 6240 6641 M: 0413 582 360