

MEDIA RELEASE
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**THE NGA ANNOUNCES 30 CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS FOR 3RD NATIONAL
INDIGENOUS ART TRIENNIAL**

The National Gallery of Australia has announced the 30 Indigenous artists participating in *Defying Empire: 3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial*. The exhibition brings together established, mid-career and emerging Indigenous artists from across the nation, whose works mark the ongoing resistance, resilience and defiance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people against colonisation from first contact to recognition through the 1967 Referendum and up until today.

Participating artists:

Tony Albert	Julie Gough	Rusty Peters
Brook Andrew	Lola Greeno	Reko Rennie
Sebastian Arrow	Dale Harding	Brian Robinson
Daniel Boyd	Sandra Hill	Yhonnie Scarce
Maree Clarke	Jonathan Jones	Ken Thaiday Sr
Megan Cope	Ray Ken	Judy Watson
Brenda L. Croft	Yvonne Koolmatrie	Vicki West
Karla Dickens	Nonggirnga Marawili	Jason Wing
Blak Douglas	Archie Moore	Pedro Wonaeamirri
Fiona Foley	Laurie Nona	Raymond Zada

This major exhibition surveys contemporary art by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists in the year that marks the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum granting Indigenous peoples the right to be counted as Australian for the first time.

‘At the 50th anniversary of this watershed moment in Australian history, it is important to showcase the significance of Indigenous art in defining our national cultural identity,’ said Gerard Vaughan, NGA Director. ‘The creation of a strong school of contemporary Indigenous practice has played a crucial role—nationally and internationally—in recognising the power and relevance of Indigenous visual culture.’

Issues of identity, racism, displacement, country, nuclear testing, sovereignty and the stolen generations are explored through many media: from painting on canvas and bark, to weaving and sculpture, and video, prints, photography, metalwork and glasswork.

'This exhibition reflects the strength, creativity, diversity and pride of contemporary Indigenous artists, highlighting the historical and ongoing activism by Indigenous people to gain equality in this country,' said Tina Baum, Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art.

Defying Empire follows on from the success of the National Indigenous Art Triennials of *Culture Warriors* and *unDisclosed* in furthering the conversation on Indigenous issues through contemporary art practice.

Wesfarmers Arts is the NGA's Indigenous Art Partner and the Presenting Partner of this exhibition.

Defying Empire: 3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial, from 26 May until 10 September 2017. Free.

High resolution images to download: http://nga.gov.au/aboutus/mediacentre/defyingempire/select_images.cfm

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