

MEDIA RELEASE

THURSDAY 31 AUGUST 2017

**GIANTS, CLONES AND FANTASTIC FLESH: THE WONDROUS WORLD OF
HYPER REAL AT THE NGA**

Today the National Gallery of Australia provided a sneak peek of what's to come when *Hyper Real* opens on 20 October. Featuring astonishing life-like depictions of the human form in sculpture, video, digital art, virtual reality and bio-art, *Hyper Real* charts the evolution of hyperrealism since the early 1970s and invites visitors to experience the familiar in extraordinary ways.

Hyper Real goes beyond traditional sculptural representations of the body. Patricia Piccinini's uncanny yet inviting fantasy world blends human and animal attributes, Marc Quinn's sculpted self-portrait is filled with litres of his own blood, Shaun Gladwell's virtual reality experience provides a disconcerting journey through the human skull, and Russian collective AES+F's 360° video installation turns the assumed natural order of society on its head.

'This is an exciting international spectrum of hyperreal art—from the colossal scale dwarfing visitors to the minute detail of the replicated human body—the weird, wonderful and uncanny will be on display this October,' said Gerard Vaughan, NGA Director. '*Hyper Real* presents nearly 50 works from hyperrealism's inception to the new world already upon us, with a strong focus on the exceptional talents of Australian artists, whose contribution in the field of hyperrealism are of global significance.'

Today, Australian artist Ron Mueck's ultra-realistic 8ft *Pregnant woman* enthralled visiting children, providing insight into the three-dimensional special family appeal of the key works in the exhibition. The giant sculpture is a feat to uncrate, conserve and install. The process was captured by the NGA on video and is available for download and use in the NGA's Media Centre.

Like Mueck's mother-to-be, 32 groundbreaking artists—including eight Australians—place an intense focus on how we look at humanity through representations of the human body. The exhibition is a collaboration between the NGA and curator Otto Letze of the Institute for Cultural Exchange, Germany.

'Recently, hyperrealism has expanded beyond the illusion of ultra-realistic skin,' said Jaklyn Babington, NGA Senior Curator of Global Contemporary Art Practice. 'Today we can also think of digital simulations, our online existence, and the enhanced vision of virtual reality as additional types of hyperrealism. *Hyper Real* presents the figurative scope of this illusive, shape-shifting genre, from sculpture to the digital.'

This exhibition is made possible through the support of presenting partner Visit Canberra, major partner Qantas, and supporting partner Maddocks.

Hyper Real opens 20 October 2017 until 18 February 2018. Tickets are on sale now through Ticketek.

ARTISTS

AES+F (Russia)	Shaun Gladwell (Aus)	Jan Nelson (Aus)
Zharko Basheski (Macedonia)	Evan Penny (Canada)	Tony Oursler (USA)
Stephen Birch (Aus)	Robert Gober (USA)	Patricia Piccinini (Aus)
Maurizio Cattelan (Italy)	Duane Hanson (USA)	Marc Quinn (UK)
John De Andrea (USA)	Sam Jinks (Aus)	Mel Ramos (US)
Berlinde de Bruyckere (Belgium)	Allen Jones (UK)	Ugo Rondinone (Swiss)
Keith Edmier (USA)	Peter Land (Denmark)	Jamie Salmon (UK)
Cao Fei (China)	Tony Matelli (USA)	George Segal (USA)
Carole A Feuerman (USA)	Paul McCarthy (USA)	Marc Sijan (Serbia)
Daniel Firman (France)	Ron Mueck (Aus)	Ronnie van Hout (NZ/Aust)
		Sun Yuan & Peng Yu (China)

MEDIA CENTRE:

Video content: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hkc0tlc3ib09hes/AABLE2t6vdoPyr24EWpHZ8HLa?dl=0>

Downloadable hi res images: <https://nga.gov.au/aboutus/mediacentre/hyperreal/default.cfm>

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook: @NationalGalleryof Australia

Instagram: @NationalGalleryAus

Twitter: @NatGalleryAus

Hashtag: #HyperRealNGA

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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