

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**8 JUNE 2018**

**MEDIA RELEASE: JAMES FAIRFAX'S LEGACY AT THE NGA**

The National Gallery of Australia welcomes the generous \$1.2million donation from the Estate of the late James Fairfax AC for the refurbishment of the James O Fairfax theatre.

The funds—pledged by Fairfax family company Bridgestar Pty Ltd—will provide improvements to the theatre to enhance the experience of all visitors through access, usability and technology.

Regarded as one of the founders of the NGA, James Fairfax was a member of the first governing Council from 1968 – 1974, and served again with great commitment from 1976 until 1984. Throughout his life he remained in close touch with the NGA as a life governor, friend and benefactor.

'His legacy has endured through gifts and donations, with artwork conservatively valued at \$20 million as well as invaluable support for acquisitions and infrastructure,' said Gerard Vaughan, NGA Director.

In addition to the \$1.2million, the Estate has gifted artworks including William Dobell's *Study of Walter Magnus* 1945 and John Olsen's *Boys and Bicycle* 1958 from James O Fairfax, as well as Charles Blackman's *The anteroom* 1963, Gunter Christmann's *Untitled* 1972, Charles Lloyd Jones' *Caretaker's cottage* (undated), Godfrey Miller's *Landscape andante* 1959-63, and Napier Waller's *Governor Macquarie crossing the Blue Mountains* c 1935 from Bridgestar Pty Ltd.

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

Megan Reeder Hope

Communications Manager

National Gallery of Australia

E: [megan.reederhope@nga.gov.au](mailto:megan.reederhope@nga.gov.au)

T: 02 6240 6700 M: 0435 103 735