

MEDIA RELEASE
Thursday, 18 June 2020



KNOW MY NAME: AUSTRALIAN WOMEN ARTISTS 1900 TO NOW

Australian women artists will take centre stage across the National Gallery Australia in November with the opening of *Know My Name: Australian Women artists 1900 to Now*, a flagship exhibition to showcase and increase the visibility of art made by women.

Postponed from its original May opening due to the pandemic closure, the additional planning has resulted in an expanded and more comprehensive exhibition, which is part of the Know My Name initiative designed to increase the representation of women artists (cis and trans) in the National Gallery of Australia's programs and collection.

Know My Name: Australian Women Artists 1900 to Now will now bring together more than 350 works of art including new commissions, performances and works drawn from the national collection, as well as collections from across Australia.

National Gallery of Australia Assistant Director, Curatorial and Exhibitions, Natasha Bullock said the exhibition would tell a new story of Australian art.

“We are turning up the volume on the many previously unheard voices in Australian art – and we urge the community and other institutions to join us on this journey to equity in our programming and collection development,” she said.

Opening on 13 November 2020, the exhibition will feature both lesser-known and leading artists such as Destiny Deacon, Marie Hagerty, Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Margaret Preston, Julie Rrap and Margaret Worth.

The exhibition is curated by Deborah Hart, Head of Australian Art, and Elspeth Pitt, Curator Australian Paintings and Sculpture (20th, 21st centuries), along with contributions from Kelli Cole, Curator, Special Projects, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, and Rebecca Edwards, Curator, Sid and Fiona Myer Curator of Ceramics and Design.

Highlights from the exhibition include a commission by the Tjanpi Desert Weavers; the work of pioneering performance artists Bonita Ely and Jill Orr; a complete edition of Tracey Moffatt’s key series of photographs, *Something more*; a major collaborative painting by the Ken Family Collaborative; an installation by Justene Williams; and a commission by Jo Lloyd, supported by Phillip Keir and Sarah Benjamin.

“This exhibition aspires to make the art of women better known in the wider community, and to counter the dominance of historical displays emphasising men,” Ms Hart said.

“Given the number of significant women artists past and present, this exhibition can only be partial; it is not an endpoint or separate from other endeavours, rather it is part of a continuum and an ongoing reassessment.”

To coincide with the opening of *Know My Name: Australian Women Artists 1900 to Now*, the National Gallery of Australia will host a conference celebrating the role of women as artists, researchers, mentors, and activists.

The conference, *Know My Name: Women and Art in the 21st Century*, will bring together established and emerging artists, curators and academics from across the world to share new research, insights and creative practice and to discuss women and gender equity in the arts.

The three-day conference, opening 11 November 2020, has been developed in collaboration with the Australia Council for the Arts, Australian National University School of Art & Design, University of Melbourne, and UNSW Art & Design.

Information on speakers and registrations will be released in the coming weeks.

The exhibition will also be accompanied by a major publication, *Know My Name*, delving into the histories and inspirations of a cross-section of Australian women artists, including many featured in the National Gallery of Australia show. A number of commissions for the exhibition will also be acquired for the national collection.

Know My Name: Australian Women Artists 1900 to Now will be on display at the National Gallery of Australia from 13 November 2020 until 31 January 2021, 10am-5pm daily. Entry is free.

Media image are available [here](#).

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Marika Lucas-Edwards | Head of Communications | marika.lucas-edwards@nga.gov.au | 0407 077 102
Sandra O'Malley | Communications Manager | sandra.omalley@nga.gov.au | 0418 897 794

Image: Yvette Coppersmith *Nude self portrait, after Rah Fizelle* 2016, oil on linen, 91.5 (H) x 66.0 (W) cm, Private collection.

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