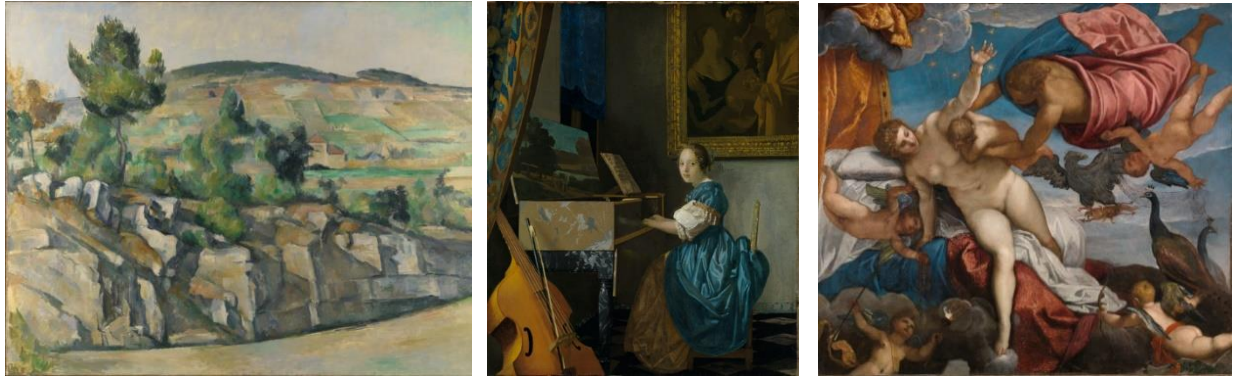


MEDIA RELEASE  
Wednesday 3 March 2021



## **AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE: RADIANT EUROPEAN MASTERPIECES LIGHT UP NATIONAL GALLERY**

Australian audiences will have a rare opportunity to view some of the most celebrated paintings in the world as *Botticelli to Van Gogh: Masterpieces from the National Gallery, London* opens for an exclusive season at the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra on Friday, 5 March 2021.

Featuring renowned paintings by some of Europe's most admired artists including Titian, Velázquez, Rembrandt, Vermeer, Canaletto, Turner, Renoir, Cézanne, Monet and Gauguin, the exhibition runs until Monday, 14 June 2021.

People can experience first-hand many of the works that have defined European art history, including Vincent van Gogh's much-loved *Sunflowers*, in the COVID-safe environment of Australia's national capital, with limited timed-entry tickets available for 12 sessions per day.

*Botticelli to Van Gogh: Masterpieces from the National Gallery, London* is the first major international exhibition in Australia since COVID-19 closed international borders in March last year. The exhibition of 61 paintings spanning nearly 500 years by 56 of European history's greatest artists is the first international touring show by the National Gallery, London, in its near 200-year history.

National Gallery of Australia Director Nick Mitzevich said it was thrilling to see these iconic paintings – works that are the foundation of European art history – on the walls of Australia's own National Gallery.

"Simply, these works are outstanding – this exhibition is a 500-year slice of artistic excellence from some of the greatest creative spirits of all time," he said.

Mr Mitzevich acknowledged exhibition partners the National Gallery, London, and Art Exhibitions Australia. "Putting on an exhibition of this significance has been a wonderfully collaborative effort and we are grateful to our partners for working with us to bring this major exhibition to Australian audiences during a pandemic," he said.

"After a year of uncertainty and difficulties for many people, I'm glad we can play a part in bringing joy and inspiration to the community in the form of these extraordinary paintings."

Co-ordinating curator Sally Foster, from the National Gallery of Australia, said while many of the works were familiar to audiences, they should not underestimate the power of seeing them in real life. “These paintings are absolutely radiant. They light up the room. There is a reason they are considered masterpieces,” Ms Foster said.

The Director of the National Gallery, London, Gabriele Finaldi, said when the Gallery opened nearly two hundred years ago, the Trustees probably would never have envisaged paintings from the collection travelling anywhere, let alone the other side of the world.

“It is a pleasure to present a National Gallery in miniature in Canberra – and only in Canberra – with 61 of our greatest works and share with you some of the most significant episodes in the history of European art. I hope the exhibition will inspire and delight many Australian visitors,” Dr Finaldi said.

Dr Mark Nelson, Chair of Art Exhibitions Australia, said a loan from one national gallery to another was a perfect fit. “The London collection and its site on Trafalgar Square have always had a strong presence in the affections of Australians, and they embody a foundation heritage that informs and enlivens the great many voices in Australia.”

*Botticelli to Van Gogh: Masterpieces from the National Gallery, London* is organised by The National Gallery London, Art Exhibitions Australia, and the National Gallery of Australia.

To book your timed ticket, visit [nga.gov.au](http://nga.gov.au).

#### KEY DATES

- Exhibition Season | 5 March to 14 June 2021
- Exclusive Members’ Preview | 4 March 10am-5pm – become an NGA member and receive a free ticket to *Botticelli to Van Gogh: Masterpieces from the National Gallery, London*. Join [here](#).
- Special Event | 6 March 5.30pm-7.30pm | Exhibition curator Bart Cornelis, from The National Gallery, London, in conversation with Geraldine Doogue AO. Book [here](#).
- Special Event | 11 March 6pm-7.15pm | Online discussion: *Tackling the gender gap in art history*, with Dr Caroline Campbell, Director of Collections and Research at National Gallery, London. Book [here](#).

#### MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Marika Lucas-Edwards | Head of Communications | [marika.lucas-edwards@nga.gov.au](mailto:marika.lucas-edwards@nga.gov.au) | 0407 077 102  
Sandra O’Malley | Communications Manager | [sandra.omalley@nga.gov.au](mailto:sandra.omalley@nga.gov.au) | 0418 897 794  
Jessica Barnes | Communications Officer | [Jessica.barnes@nga.gov.au](mailto:Jessica.barnes@nga.gov.au) | 0431 731 140

#### IMAGES & RESOURCES

Media Centre and Media Kit [here](#)  
*Botticelli to van Gogh* catalogue [here](#)

Images left to right: Paul Cézanne. *Hillside in Provence* c1890-92 © The National Gallery, London.  
Johannes Vermeer, *A young woman seated at a virginal* 1670-72. © The National Gallery, London.  
Jacopo Tintoretto, *The origin of the Milky Way* c1575. © The National Gallery, London.

Government Partners



Principal Sponsor



Principal Donor



Major Partner



Organising Partners

