

DRAFT MEDIA RELEASE

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SKYWHALES NATIONAL TOUR PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

“Remember to look up. Among the amazing creatures that fill the sky, one day you might just see a skywhale too...” – Patricia Piccinini

Now that *Skywhalepapa* and his babies have joined *Skywhale*, Patricia Piccinini’s skywhale family is complete – and ready to #HolidayHere with a two-year Australia-wide tour.

From metropolitan cities to rural Australia, *Skywhales: Every heart sings* is a National Gallery of Australia Touring Event that will reach audiences across the country, made possible by our National Tour Principal Partner The Naomi Milgrom Foundation, with the support of Visions of Australia.

Skywhale and *Skywhalepapa*, which debuted together in April, will fly one last time in Canberra on Saturday, 3 April before the first stop of their tour in Albury on 17 April.

“From the sunny Gold Coast beaches to the red deserts of Alice Springs, Australians across this vast land will be able to see the skywhales soar over our iconic landscapes,” said Nick Mitzevich, Director, National Gallery of Australia.

“The skywhales have become a part of our country’s contemporary culture. With touring initiatives such as *Skywhales: Every heart sings*, we have the ability to connect with all Australians and elevate the role art can play in our lives.”

Mr Mitzevich thanked The Naomi Milgrom Foundation and Visions of Australia for supporting the national tour of *Skywhales: Every heart sings*, as well as The Balnaves Foundation, who supported the commission of *Skywhalepapa* and the Canberra season of flights.

“*Skywhales: Every heart sings* is an extraordinary project,” said Naomi Milgrom AC. “Cultural initiatives such as this tour of the now iconic skywhales allow more Australians a chance to experience art in a new way. By bringing extraordinary art into the everyday, we can enrich the lives of individuals, nourish communities and boost economies across the country. I am delighted to support this important and inspiring moment in Australian art—one that will sing in the hearts of all who encounter it for years to come.”

Following the national tour launch flight in association with Murray Art Museum Albury (MAMA) Albury, skywhales will travel together to 11 regional venues including: Home of the Arts on the Gold Coast; Cairns Art Gallery; Maitland Regional Art Gallery; Walkway Gallery in Bordertown; Araluen Art Centre in Alice Springs; M Pavilion in Melbourne; Tamworth Regional Art Gallery; the Hamilton Art Gallery and the Art Gallery of Ballarat.

All venues and dates are COVID-19 permitting and weather dependent, and therefore subject to change.

As artist Patricia Piccinini says: “one of the things about the skywhales is that you need to be lucky to see them. The wind and weather must be right, essentially nature must allow us to see them and we cannot control that. We are lucky if we get to see them, just like we are lucky if we get to see so many of the wonders of the natural world. It reminds us that not everything is just for us whenever we want it. And that we should be grateful. I really love that.”

To find out more about the skywhales’ first stop of their tour, visit mamalbury.com.au/see-and-do/.

To keep up to date with the touring program, visit knowmyname.nga.gov.au/events and follow the skywhales’ journey with #Skywhales.

The final skywhales launch in Canberra, with MC and ABC Radio Canberra Breakfast radio host Lish Fejer, will take place at John Dunmore Lang Place in Parkes, near the National Gallery of Australia, on 3 April and is now sold out. Those without tickets are able to see the skywhales from other vantage points including Lake Burley Griffin and the parliamentary triangle.

Skywhales: Every heart sings is a National Gallery of Australia Touring Event, supported by Principal Patron The Naomi Milgrom Foundation and supported by Visions of Australia. The Canberra season is the third instalment of The Balnaves Contemporary Series. *Skywhales: Every heart sings* is a Know My Name project.

Images & video:
download [here](#).

Interview opportunities:
National Gallery Director Nick Mitzevich, National Gallery Curator Jaklyn Babington, artist Patricia Piccinini.

Media enquiries:
Jessica Barnes | Communications Officer | 0431 731 140 | jessica.barnes@nga.gov.au

SKYWHALES: EVERY HEART SINGS TOURING PROGRAM

*noting all dates are subject to change and to be confirmed closer to the date.

2021

Murray Art Museum Albury (MAMA), Albury, NSW | 17 April
Home of the Arts, Gold Coast, QLD | 26 June
Cairns Art Gallery, Cairns, QLD | (over two weekends) 28 Aug & 4 Sept
Maitland Art Gallery, Maitland, NSW | 18 September
Walkway Gallery, Bordertown, SA | 2 October
Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT | 23 October
M Pavilion, Melbourne, VIC | 11 December

2022

Tamworth Art Gallery, Tamworth, NSW | mid-March
Hamilton Art Gallery, Hamilton, VIC | mid-May
Art Gallery of Ballarat, Ballarat, VIC | mid-July

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Caption: Patricia Piccinini, *Skywhalepapa*, 2020 and *Skywhale*, 2013, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, © Patricia Piccinini