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Benalla Art Gallery to premiere summer blockbuster

By Benalla Ensign – November 25, 2022



Sparkling: Kaylene Whiskey's *Ngura Pukulpa – Happy Place*, 2021. Courtesy Kaylene Whiskey and Iwantja Arts. Photo: Max Mackinnon.

Benalla Art Gallery will be the premiere venue for a new exhibition from the Australian Centre for the Moving Image this summer.

Between the Details: Video Art from the ACMI Collection showcases six moving image artworks by Australian artists, and celebrates ACMI's vibrant collecting and commissioning program.

Benalla Art Gallery director Eric Nash said it was a coup for the gallery to be the first venue of this significant new national tour. "ACMI is the leading museum of screen culture not only in Australia, but internationally," Mr. Nash said.

"ACMI attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year through their dynamic exhibition program, and millions of visitors online through their varied collection and education offerings.

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“It’s very exciting for us to be able to transform the gallery through top-quality, immersive projection and augmented reality work, particularly over the summer period, as many families are taking time to be together.”

Between the Details: Video Art from the ACMI Collection highlights the opportunity video offers artists to use editing as their primary technique; mixing and matching elements from other films, or their own work, to tell new stories. By remixing or rearranging footage they build different rhythms and moods, create hilarious juxtapositions or shed new light on cultural clichés and presumed histories. The works in this exhibition all demonstrate an irrepressible desire to bring deep themes to the surface with humour and an incredible attention to detail.

ACMI’s collection has a rich, 76-year history from its inception as the State Film Centre in 1946. Since its incarnation as ACMI in the early 2000s, the collection has expanded to include artworks and experimental film. ACMI now holds a significant archive of complex, time-based media works and video games, as well as an ever-expanding repository of digitised content and born-digital material.

ACMI director and chief executive Seb Chan said it had a proud history of supporting the creation of new Australian moving image works through its commissioning and collecting programs.

“As part of our touring exhibitions, it’s a joy for us to bring six works to the Benalla Art Gallery via *Between the Details: Video Art from the ACMI Collection*,” Mr Chan said.

“The featured works demonstrate — in distinct ways — how the moving image can powerfully engage our emotions, our memories and our imaginations.”

Benalla Art Gallery’s hosting of the exhibition has been made possible with support from Panasonic, local sponsor Ray White Benalla, and through the Victorian Government via the Living Local Regional Grants Program and Engage.

The exhibition will open to the public on Friday, December 9 with a talk by artist David Rosetzky and ACMI senior curator Fiona Trigg, and continues until February 26, 2023.