

The National 2017 New Australian Art



**Art Gallery of
New South Wales**

30 March – 16 July 2017

Carriageworks

30 March – 25 June 2017

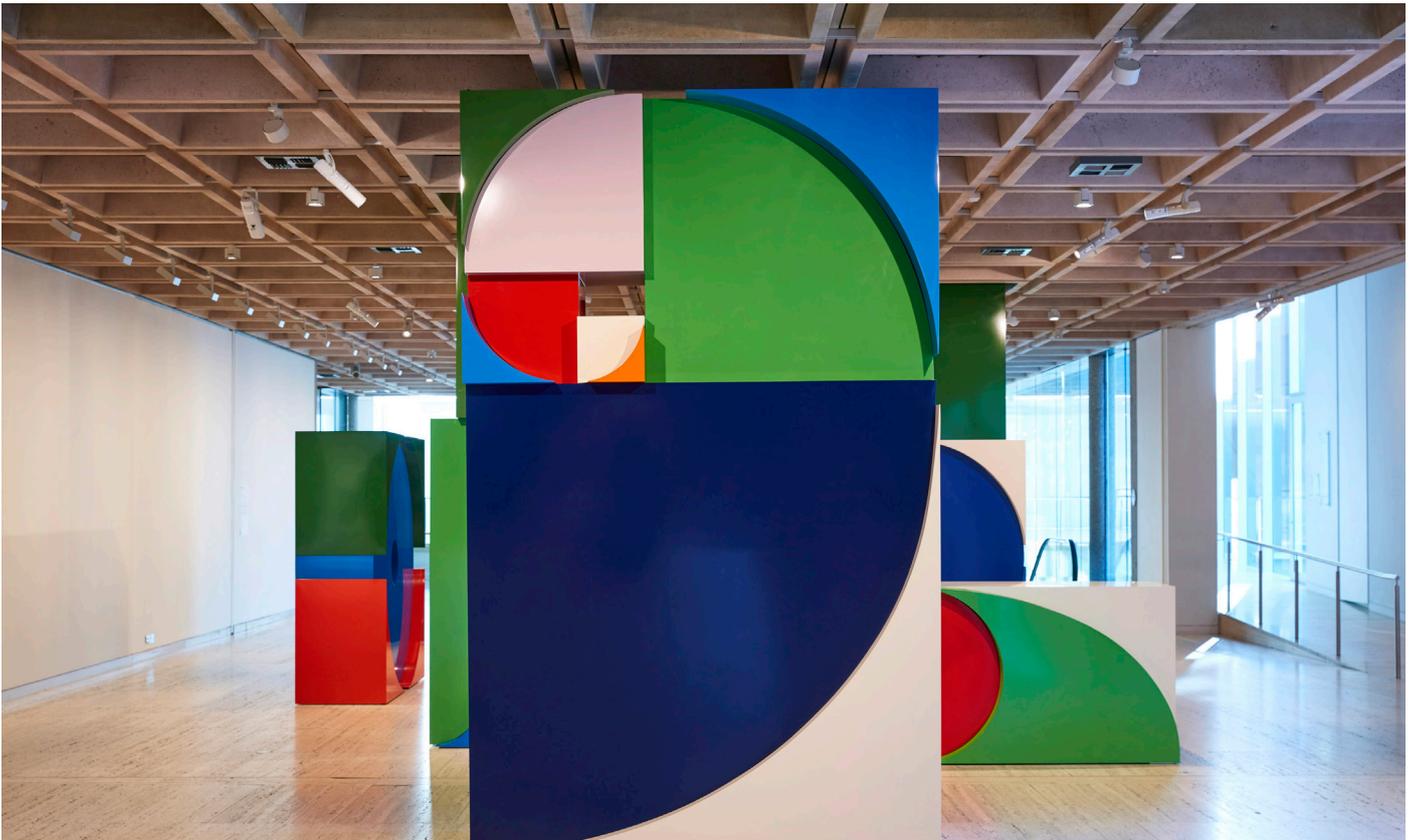
Museum of Contemporary Art Australia

30 March – 18 June 2017

2017/2019/2021

The National 2017 New Australian Art

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Emily Floyd, *Kesh alphabet*, 2017,
Art Gallery of New South Wales,
Atelier and Contemporary Collection
Benefactors 2016 @ Emily Floyd

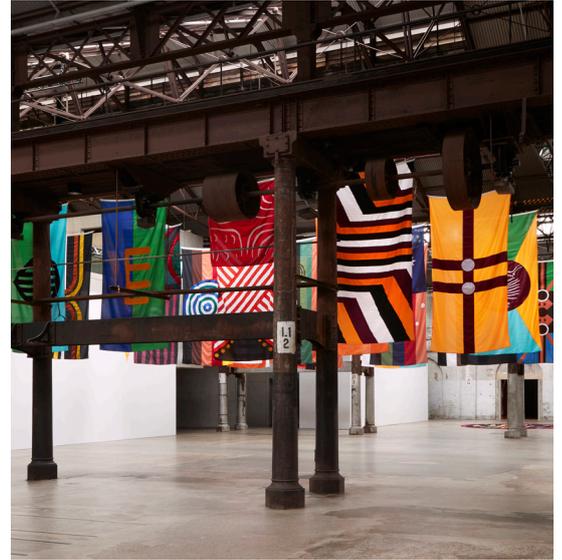
The National 2017: New Australian Art unveiled at Sydney's premier cultural institutions

– 48 Australian artists featured across the Art Gallery of NSW,
Carriageworks and the MCA

Sydney, Australia: *The National 2017: New Australian Art* was today unveiled at three of Sydney's premier cultural institutions, representing the first exhibition in a six-year partnership between the Art Gallery of New Wales (AGNSW), Carriageworks and Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA) that will continue biennially until 2021, presenting the latest ideas and forms in contemporary Australian art. Connecting three of Sydney's key cultural precincts – The Domain, Redfern and Circular Quay, *The National: New Australian Art* is the only large-scale, multi-venue exhibition in the country focused solely on contemporary Australian art.

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Left to right:

Rose Nolan, *Big Words – To keep going, breathing helps (circle work)*, 2016–17, installation view, *The National 2017: New Australian Art*, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney, supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, image courtesy the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery @ the artist, photograph: Felicity Jenkins

Archie Moore, *United Nations*, installation view, *The National 2017: New Australian Art*, Carriageworks, photograph: Zan Wimberley

Presented concurrently at the three institutions, *The National 2017* features work by emerging, mid-career and established Australian artists, showcasing new and commissioned work and encompassing a diverse range of mediums including painting, video, sculpture, installation, drawing and performance. The exhibition offers a holistic view of Australian art at a point in time, and fosters dialogue between generations of artists. The work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists features prominently across all exhibition venues, including those practising on country and those based in urban areas.

The National 2017 is curated by Anneke Jaspers and Wayne Tunnicliffe (AGNSW); Lisa Havilah and Nina Miall (Carriageworks); and Blair French (MCA). While curators focused on the delivery of the exhibition within their institutions, they worked together developing ideas and research, producing a single exhibition that unfolds across the three sites with key points of connection and dialogue.

At the Art Gallery of NSW, exhibiting artists explore the forces of social change. Their works open up new conversations with history and politics, looking at feminism, colonialism and our relations with the natural environment. From the vivid colours of **Emily Floyd's** monumental feminist sculpture in the Gallery's entrance court, to the scarred beauty of the landscape in **Taloi Havini's** mesmerising video and **Helen Johnson's** paintings that unsettle myths related to Australia's colonial history, the works gathered at AGNSW for *The National 2017* look to the past in an endeavour to make sense of the present.

At Carriageworks, artists explore the hybrid Australian identity offering different perspectives on how identification is shaped by questions of experience, knowledge, history and power. Works present a strong performative element, including senior Kimberley regions' lawman **Alan Griffiths'** performance of the *Bali Bali Balga* with 15 indigenous dancers; an ambitious new commission by **Justene Williams'** featuring a sculptural installation and live performance synthesising dance, costume, live music, electronic sound and vocals; and a major site-specific sculptural installation by **Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran**.

At the MCA, artists are drawn from every Australian state and territory, with their works considering recurrent subject matters, materials or the processes of art making. Encounter **Khadim Ali's** 15-metre mural evoking migrant experiences of exclusion, isolation and waiting; the beautiful repetition of materials and forms in **Rose Nolan's** monumental banner; and 32 metal-cast objects accompanied with a homemade furnace by **Matthew Bradley**. There is no one connecting theme at the MCA, although common elements – art that considers the actions of power, conflict

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Clockwise:

Claudia Nicholson, *All I Have Are Dreams of You*, installation view, *The National 2017: New Australian Art*, Carriageworks, photograph: Zan Wimberley

Khadim Ali standing in front of his work *The Arrival of Demons*, 2017, installation view, *The National 2017: New Australian Art*, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney, commissioned by the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, 2016, supported by Veolia Environmental Services, image courtesy the artist and Milani Gallery @ the artist, photograph: Ken Leanfore

Agatha Gothe-Snape, *You and everything that is not you* (Art Gallery of New South Wales), 2017, adhesive vinyl, Courtesy the artist and The Commercial, Sydney @ Agatha Gothe-Snape

that shapes the present, and an individual's relationship to society – connect the works on display. During the opening week of *The National 2017*, be captivated by a three-day program of talks, performances and events across all three venues. Take an in-depth look at contemporary Australian art: meet and hear from the exhibition's artists and curators; encounter live performances, electronic sound and vocals at Carriageworks; enter Jess Johnson and Simon Ward's homage to post-apocalyptic films and DIY culture at MCA's ARTBAR, and enjoy a special presentation by Yolngu artists Gunybi Ganambarr and Yinimala Gumana at AGNSW. *The National 2017* public programs continue throughout the coming months with artist talks, performances and workshops on offer alongside family and children's activities and a wide variety of access programs.

The exhibition is accompanied by a richly illustrated publication, edited by the curators with Genevieve O'Callaghan. It features curatorial overviews; commissioned essays by Sunil Badami, Daniel Browning and Helen Hughes; and extended entries for each of the 48 artists included in the 2017 exhibition. The publication is available for purchase at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Carriageworks and the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia for RRP \$34.95. It is also available online at the AGNSW and MCA websites.

The National 2017 is supported by a dedicated website (www.the-national.com.au) offering a significant resource for users around the world on contemporary Australian art. It represents a comprehensive record of the artist participation in the inaugural exhibition, including artist biographies and portraits, curatorial and essays about artists' work, and photographic documentation of artist works. From late April the website will provide curator commentary on every exhibiting artists' work via both audio file and Auslan video. The website will also house short documentary films on 13 artists and their projects including: Khadim Ali (MCA); Zanny Begg (MCA); Emily Floyd (AGNSW); Alex Gawronski (all venues); Alan Griffiths (Carriageworks); Dale Harding (AGNSW); Archie Moore (Carriageworks); Nell (MCA); Claudia Nicholson (Carriageworks); Tom Nicholson (AGNSW); Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran (Carriageworks); Rose Nolan (MCA); and Justene Williams (Carriageworks).

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Artists

Art Gallery of NSW

Gordon Bennett
Megan Cope
Keg de Souza
Emily Floyd
Gunyaibi Ganambarr
Alex Gawronski
Agatha Gothe-Snape
Dale Harding
Taloi Havini
Helen Johnson
Nicholas Mangan
Alex Martinis Roe
Tom Nicholson
Raquel Ormella
Khaled Sabsabi
Yhonnie Scarce
Tiger Yaltangki

Carriageworks

Richard Bell
Chris Bond & Wes Thorne
Karla Dickens
Atlanta Eke & Ghenoa Gela
Heath Franco
Agatha Gothe-Snape
Alex Gawronski
Alan Griffiths
Jess Johnson & Simon Ward
Richard Lewer
Archie Moore
Claudia Nicholson
Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran
Justene Williams
Jemima Wyman

MCA Australia

Khadim Ali
Zanny Begg
Matthew Bradley
Gary Carsley
Erin Coates
Marco Fusinato
Alex Gawronski
Agatha Gothe-Snape
Julie Gough
Gordon Hookey
Peter Maloney
Karen Mills
Rose Nolan
Stieg Persson
Elizabeth Pulie
Ronnie van Hout
Nell

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AQUALAND

Art Gallery of New South Wales

Aqualand is delighted to be a Presenting Partner of the biennial *The National 2017: New Australian Art*. We are honoured to be supporting the Art Gallery of NSW in a six-year partnership encompassing the three editions, 2017, 2019 and 2021.

At Aqualand we believe art inspires, and that there is a strong connection between art and the development of engaged, vibrant communities. By supporting local talent and the continued development of the Australian art scene, we hope to increase opportunities for Australian artists.



THE NEILSON FOUNDATION

Museum of Contemporary Art Australia

The Neilson Foundation is honoured to be Major Supporter of *The National 2017: New Australian Art* at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA).

Established in 2007, The Neilson Foundation supports innovative initiatives that enrich the cultural landscape of Sydney and Australia. We look forward to sharing the immense artistic talent of Australian artists with diverse audiences, covering subjects across cultural, political and social perspectives today.

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Free Opening Events

For the opening of *The National 2017* be captivated by performances, electronic sound and vocals at Carriageworks, enter Jess Johnson and Simon Ward's homage to post-apocalyptic films and DIY culture at MCA's ARTBAR, and enjoy a special presentation by Yolngu artists Gunybi Ganambarr and Yinimala Gumana at AGNSW.

Take an in-depth look at contemporary Australian art at all three venues as you meet and hear from the exhibition's artists and curators.

Visit the-national.com.au for further details and bookings

Art Gallery of New South Wales Art Gallery Road, The Domain

Panel: Situating Practice

Thursday 30 March, 12.30–1.30pm (free, booking essential)

This panel discussion examines the ways in which Australian contemporary art speaks to experiences of place and how this might challenge dominant narratives about history and identity. Panellists include artists Agatha Gothe-Snape and Tom Nicholson, contributing catalogue writers Daniel Browning and Helen Hughes. Moderated by Anneke Jaspers (AGNSW).

Artist Talks

Thursday 30 March, throughout the day (free, drop-in)

11.30am–12pm	Gunybi Ganambarr & Yinimala Gumana
2–2.30pm	Helen Johnson
3–3.30pm	Yhonnie Scarce
4–4.30pm	Nicholas Mangan

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Carriageworks 425 Wilson Street, Eveleigh

***Bali Bali Balga* performance by Alan Griffiths**

Friday 31 March, 7pm–7.40pm (free, booking essential)
Alan Griffiths (the songman) and a group of 15 male and female dancers will perform the *Bali Bali Balga*, a traditional East Kimberley cultural ceremony about the spirit world, whose song cycle was given to Griffiths in a dream.

This performance has been made possible with the assistance of Arnhem, Northern and Kimberley Aboriginal Artists Association, the Kimberley Development Commission, and Waringarri Aboriginal Arts.

Artist Talks

Saturday 1 April, throughout the day (free, drop-in)

10–10.30am	Archie Moore
10.30–11am	Jemima Wyman
2–2.30pm	Richard Lewer
2.30–3pm	Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran

***A Metal Cry* performance by Justene Williams**

Saturday 1 April, 11am & 12noon (free, booking essential)
Justene Williams' ambitious new commission, *A Metal Cry*, brings sculptural installation and live performance together in a work that synthesises dance, live music, electronic sound and vocals.

***Basically Black* screening and panel discussion with Richard Bell**

Saturday 1 April, 3–4pm (free, booking essential)
In this event, Richard Bell will introduce the 30-minute screening of *Basically Black* (1973), adapted by the ABC in 1973 following its theatrical success. It will be followed by a discussion on the contemporary resonances of this work.

***All I Have Are Dreams of You* performance by Claudia Nicholson**

Saturday 1 April, 4.30–5pm (free, booking essential)
Join artist Claudia Nicholson as she animates her work with a tribute performance in memory of the young Latina pop star Selena Quintanilla who was murdered in 1995.

Museum of Contemporary Art Australia 140 George Street, The Rocks

Panel: Curatorial Models – Collaboration and Contemporary Art

Friday 31 March, 12.30–2pm (free, booking essential)
This panel discussion explores the different ways exhibition models can contribute to a new or changed narrative of contemporary art in Australia. Panellists include Blair French (MCA), Mami Kataoka (Biennale of Sydney), Reuben Keehan (QAGOMA), Nina Miall (Carriageworks) and Wayne Tunncliffe (AGNSW). Moderated by Charlotte Day (Monash University Museum of Art).

Artist Talks

Friday 31 March, throughout the day (free, drop-in)

11.30am–12pm	Stieg Persson
2.30–3pm	Julie Gough
3.30–4pm	Erin Coates
4.15–4.45pm	Ronnie van Hout

ARTBAR

Friday 31 March, 7–11pm (throughout the MCA)
\$24/\$18 MCA Members and Concessions
\$28 on the door (subject to availability)
Ages 18+
For the March edition of ARTBAR, artists Jess Johnson and Simon Ward will turn the MCA into a dead end drive-in. Step into the artists' homage to post-apocalyptic films and DIY culture.

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The National 2017 public programs continue throughout the coming months with artist talks, performances and workshops on offer alongside family and children's activities and a wide variety of access programs.

PERFORMANCES

Visitors can enjoy a performance or witness an artwork in the making through a range of community and participatory events.

TALKS

Hear from some of the artists and curators as they share their knowledge and perspectives.

WORKSHOPS

Get hands-on during workshops led by artists and educators. For all ages.

TOURS

Be led through the exhibition by a passionate guide.

MUSIC & FILM

A curated selection of music and films inspired by exhibition themes.

KIDS, FAMILIES & TEENS

Take part in a variety of hands-on immersive experiences for children, teens and their families.

ACCESS

The National 2017 includes a selection of programs for individuals with different access needs.

Visit the-national.com.au for further details and bookings

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Art Gallery of NSW

30 March – 16 July 2017
Art Gallery Road, The Domain
artgallery.nsw.gov.au
10am–5pm daily
10am–10pm Wednesday

Media Contact

Hannah McKissock-Davis
Art Gallery of New South Wales
0498 001 217
hannah.mckissock-davis@ag.nsw.gov.au



Carriageworks

30 March – 25 June 2017
245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh
carriageworks.com.au
10am–6pm daily

Media Contact

Kym Elphinstone
Articulate PR for Carriageworks
0421 106 139
kym@articulatepr.com.au



MCA Australia

30 March – 18 June 2017
140 George Street, The Rocks
mca.com.au
10am–5pm daily
10am–9pm Wednesday

Media Contact

Claire Johnson
MCA Australia
02 9245 2417
claire.johnson@mca.com.au

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