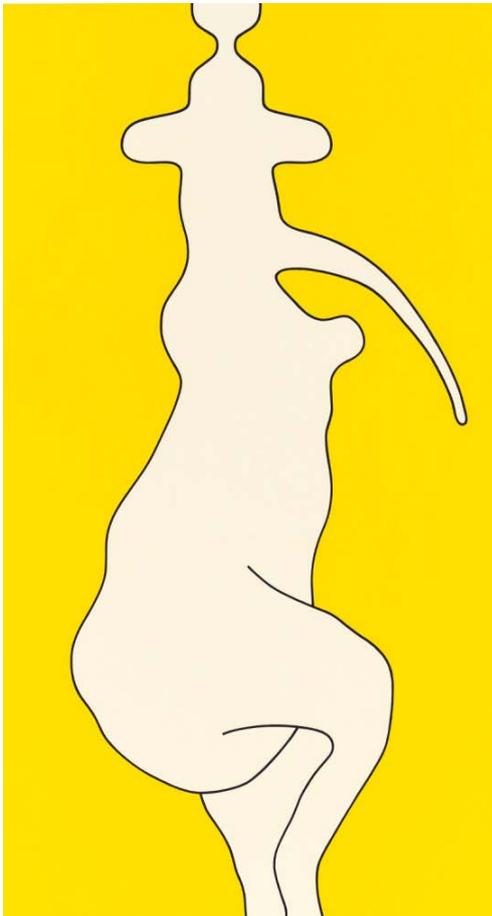


20 FEBRUARY 2012



Brent Harris

NGV International | FREE | 10 March – 12 August 2012

On 10 March, the National Gallery of Victoria will open the highly anticipated self-titled exhibition of Melbourne contemporary artist, Brent Harris.

Dr Gerard Vaughan, Director, NGV said: “Brent Harris is one of Australia’s most celebrated artists and we are delighted to be showcasing a solo exhibition of his work.”

Brent Harris features works that span more than two decades and represent significant stages in the artist’s career. Well known for haunting imagery that often drifts between abstraction and figuration, Harris’s paintings, prints and drawings are often motivated by an exploration of personal memories and the expression of psychological states.

Jane Devery, Assistant Curator Contemporary Art, NGV said: “Harris’s creative output has been marked by a number of aesthetic shifts. He’s an artist who has

continually challenged his own approach to image-making to develop a highly distinctive visual language.

“This exhibition is deliberately arranged in a non-chronological way, offering an opportunity for visitors to consider connections between works that, in some cases, have been produced decades apart. It will no doubt encourage a fresh assessment of the artist’s work to-date and a keen interest in what Harris may produce in the future,” said Ms Devery.

Drawn from the NGV Collection, with the addition of a small number of private loans, *Brent Harris* comprises more than 80 important works. The exhibition follows the development of the artist’s unique vision from his earliest drawings through to his most recent paintings and prints.

A highlight of the exhibition is the inclusion of a number of new acquisitions including a group of the artist’s most recent paintings from 2011. Intuitively composed, these vibrant, colourful works signal a significant new phase in Harris’s career that marks a radical departure from the meticulously executed paintings for which he is best known.

Another highlight is the inclusion of a selection of new prints from the series *the fall* 2012 that have never been exhibited before. Charged with a dream-like quality, these exciting new works offer audiences the opportunity to see the very latest developments in Harris’s art.

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Dr Vaughan said that this exhibition was especially significant as it also highlights the relationship between artist and gallery.

“Harris is well known at the NGV having spent many hours here studying the extensive and magnificent paintings and prints and drawings collection. It is an honour for the Gallery to present this solo exhibition of his work - a special opportunity for all Melburnians,” said Dr Vaughan.

The NGV has produced a *Brent Harris* exhibition publication which will be available at NGV Shop for RRP\$14.95.

To complement the exhibition an engaging range of programs has been developed. Visit ngv.vic.gov.au for more details.

Brent Harris is on display at NGV International from 10 March to 12 August 2012. Open 10am–5pm, Wed–Mon. Entry is free.

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Programs

Floor talk: The reassembled self

Sat 17 Mar, 2pm & Sat 14 July, 2pm

Brent Harris, exhibiting artist

Free, exhibition space

Floor talk: Exhibition introduction

Wed 18 Apr, 12.30pm & Fri 10 Aug, 12.30pm

Jane Devery, Asst Curator Contemporary Art

Free, exhibition space

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CAPTIONS:

Brent Harris (New Zealander 1956– worked in Australia 1985–), *On Becoming (Yellow no. 3)* 1996, colour screenprint, ed. 16/20 95.0 x 51.4 cm (image), 121.8 x 77.5 cm (sheet), Gift of Mark Grant through the Australian Government’s Cultural Gifts Program, 2011

Brent Harris (New Zealander 1956–, worked in Australia 1985–), *No. 21* 2011, gouache and charcoal on board, 42.0 x 31.0 cm Purchased, Victorian Foundation for Living Australian Artists, 2011