

Confounding: Contemporary Photography

NGV International | FREE | 5 October 2012 – 3 March 2013



On 5 October, the National Gallery of Victoria will present *Confounding: Contemporary Photography*, an exploration of the uncanny worlds created by human imagination, dreams and memories.

Drawn from the NGV's collection, the fourteen works on display transform the strange, uncomfortable and awkward into plausible realities. Visitors will discover the gaze of unnerving children in the hyper-real work of Loretta Lux; be jolted upon realising the hidden reality of Wang Qingsong's monumental tableaux; and wonder at the strange beauty in the carefully constructed cardboard world of Thomas Demand.

Susan van Wyk, Curator, Photography, NGV, said: "Like the recollection of a dream, the photographs displayed in *Confounding* seem to make sense, but do not sit comfortably in the

world. There are subtle, slightly sinister elements within the images that suggest a mystifying alternative reality."

"Through a selection of works by Australian and international artists, including two new acquisitions by Thomas Demand and Roger Ballen, *Confounding* explores the unexpected with images that bridge the divide between real and fictional," said van Wyk.

Confounding will present works by contemporary photographers including Roger Ballen, Pat Brassington, Thomas Demand, Eliza Hutchison, Rosemary Laing, Loretta Lux, Patricia Piccinini, Peter Peryer, Wang Qingsong and Ronnie van Hout.

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The exhibition will be accompanied by a diverse public programs calendar including floor talks with *Confounding* artists, exhibition talks with curator Susan van Wyk, a 'Sketching in the Gallery' session and contemporary photography workshops. Visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au for further details.

Confounding: Contemporary Photography is on display at NGV International from 5 October 2012 to 3 March 2013. Open 10am–5pm, Wed–Mon. Entry is free.

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Image caption:

Eliza Hutchison
Australian born 1965
The ancestors 2004
light-jet print
95.3 x 73.0 cm (image), 105.3 x 83.0 cm (sheet)
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Purchased with funds arranged by Loti Smorgon for Contemporary Australian Photography, 2005
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