

Mari Funaki: Objects 6 August – 24 October 2010

28 July 2010

Opening 6 August, the National Gallery of Victoria will present *Mari Funaki: Objects*, an exhibition showcasing a range of sculptural objects by the renowned contemporary jeweller and metalsmith, Mari Funaki (1950 – 2010).

This exhibition will present a selection of Funaki's distinctive objects, dating from the late 1990s to 2010 including four recent large scale sculptures. The artist was working on the exhibition right up until the time of her recent death.

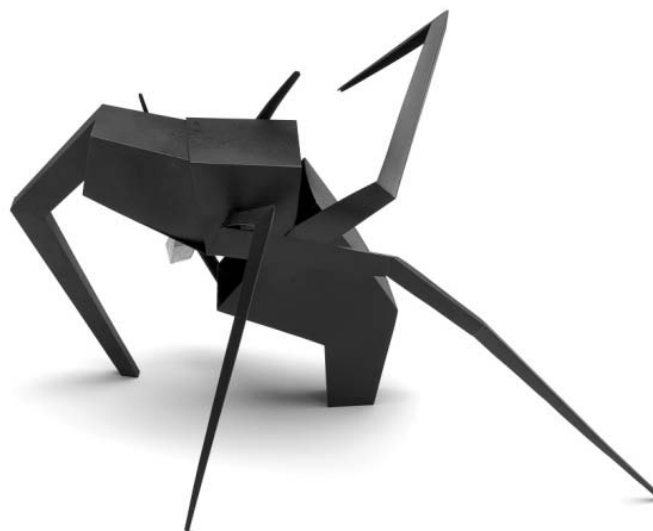
Jane Devery, Acting Curator, Contemporary Art, NGV said: "It was a great privilege to work with Mari Funaki on this exhibition.

She possessed a clarity of vision and a capacity for ongoing invention that is rare among artists.

"Funaki produced some of the most captivating works in the field of contemporary jewellery and metalwork. Her unique geometric objects, meticulously constructed from blackened mild-steel, stemmed from a desire to express the world around her.

"Funaki was interested in the expressive and associative capacities of her objects, creating forms that might stir our imaginations or trigger something from our memories. It has been particularly thrilling to see her extend these concerns in large scale works," said Ms Devery.

In 1979 Funaki left her home in Japan for Melbourne where she pursued her creative ambitions, enrolling in Gold and Silversmithing at RMIT in the late 1980s. At RMIT she studied under the prominent jewellers Marian Hosking, Robert Baines and Carlier Makigawa.



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In 1995, Mari Funaki established Gallery Funaki in Melbourne's CBD which remains Australia's most important space dedicated to contemporary jewellery. Throughout her career she exhibited widely within Australia and overseas and won many awards, twice winning the prestigious Herbert Hoffman prize in Munich. In 2007 she was awarded an Australian Council Emeritus Award for her work as an artist and for her success in promoting Australian and international contemporary jewellery.

Frances Lindsay, Deputy Director, NGV said: "The NGV is delighted to exhibit many never-before-seen works by such an innovative and celebrated Melbourne artist. The exquisite objects assembled in this exhibition allow us to appreciate Mari Funaki's remarkable artistic achievements."

Mari Funaki: Objects will be on display at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Federation Square from 6 August to 24 October, 2010. The exhibition will be open from 10am-5pm. Closed Mondays. Entry is free.

For further information visit ngv.vic.gov.au

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Image caption:

Mari Funaki, born Japan 1950, arrived Australia 1979, died 2010. *Object* 2010, blackened mild steel ,30.0 x 19.0 x 20.5 cm
Collection of the Estate of Mari Funaki, Melbourne. © The Estate of Mari Funaki Photo: Justin Schooneman

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