

# RON MUECK

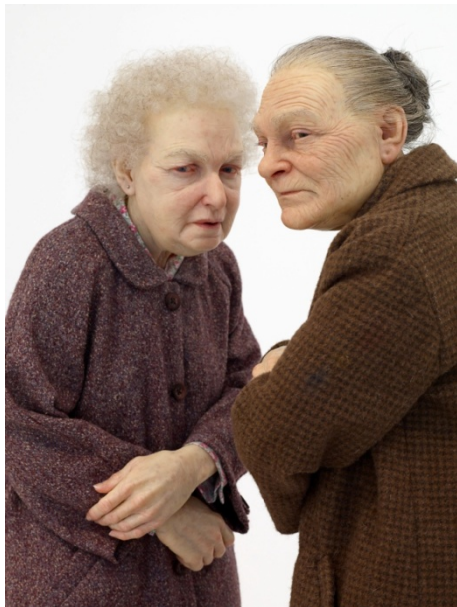
ngv  
National  
Gallery of  
Victoria

Thursday 21 January 2010

## THE EXHIBITION

***“People in all their variations and similarities are pretty fascinating. Occasionally, some of these aspects come into focus ... and I think maybe I could capture that.”***

*Ron Mueck*



The National Gallery of Victoria today opened a stunning exhibition of the work of internationally renowned sculptor Ron Mueck.

Known for his extraordinarily life-like creations, this exhibition features twelve sculptures by Mueck including four new works, never exhibited before.

This is the largest and most comprehensive Mueck exhibition ever to be held in Australia.

Frances Lindsay, Deputy Director, NGV, said: “Since his dramatic entry onto the international art stage, Mueck has continued to astound audiences with his realistic, figurative sculptures and now occupies a unique and important place in the field of international contemporary art.”

David Hurlston, Curator Australian Art, NGV, said Ron Mueck’s poignant sculptures illustrate timeless human conditions from birth to demise.

“Mueck’s sculptures range from puckish portrayals of childhood innocence to acute observations of stages of life; from birth to adolescence, middle and old age, and even death. Many are solitary figures, psychological portraits of emotional intensity and of isolation,” said Mr Hurlston.

The exhibition draws from Australian and international collections, highlights include: *Mask II* (2002), *Man in a boat* (2002), *Old woman in bed* (2002), *Wild man* (2005), *Two women* (2005), *In bed* (2005), and through the generosity of a private collector from the United States, the iconic work *Dead Dad* (1996/97).

In addition to these there are a number of new works created specifically for this exhibition which will be unveiled for the first time in Melbourne.

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## THE EXHIBITION *(continued)*

In his early career Melbourne-born Mueck worked as a puppet maker, however since 1997 he has been entirely devoted to making sculpture. In 1996, he was 'discovered' by British advertising guru Charles Saatchi, who included Mueck's *Dead Dad* as part of the history making *Sensation* exhibition the following year.

Mueck went on to be represented at the 2001 Venice Biennale, capturing worldwide attention for his 4.9 metre sculpture, *Boy* (1999). Since then, he has become one of the most significant figures in the contemporary art world.

Mueck's work is currently held in the collections of Art Gallery of NSW, National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, McClelland Gallery and Queensland Art Gallery.

*Ron Mueck* is on display at NGV International on St Kilda Road from 22 January until 18 April 2010.

**Admission fees apply:** Adult \$15.00 / Concession \$12.00 / Children \$7.50

*Ron Mueck* is a National Gallery of Victoria touring exhibition and will travel to Queensland Art Gallery from 8 May until 8 August 2010 and to Christchurch Art Gallery from 30 September until 23 January 2011.

**Principal Sponsor:** Mercer

**Support Sponsors:** Maddocks, Sanpellegrino, Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, The Age, JCDecaux

For further information visit [ngv.vic.gov.au](http://ngv.vic.gov.au)

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**Image caption:** Ron Mueck, Born Australia 1958, *Two women* 2005, polyester resin, fibreglass, silicone, aluminium wire, steel, wool, cotton, nylon, synthetic hair, plastic, metal, ed. 1/1 82.6 x 48.7 x 41.5 cm (variable), National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne Purchased, Victorian Foundation for Living Australian Artists, 2007 © Ron Mueck courtesy Anthony d'Offay, London

  
Victoria  
The Place To Be

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## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

An extensive public program schedule has been developed for the *Ron Mueck* exhibition. Below are some highlights.

For further information and bookings call 03 8662 1555 or go to [ngv.vic.gov.au](http://ngv.vic.gov.au).

## NGV KIDS

### **Art Sparks: Art About Us**

Sat 23 & 30 Jan, 6, 13, 20 & 27 Feb, 12–3pm  
Ages 3+

Happy, sad, powerful and weak, all sorts of people are included in art. Explore the collection and exhibitions to meet some people in art. Then draw someone you care about. Program also linked with the exhibition *Love, Loss & Intimacy*.

**Cost** Free (viewing of Ron Mueck optional, exhibition fee applies)

**Meet** Great Hall, Ground Level, NGV International

## NGV FILMS

### ***Being John Malkovich***

Sun 31 Jan, 3pm  
(1999, 108 mins, MA15+)

Perspective, distortion of human scale in habitual spaces, identity, psychological projection and exquisitely crafted puppetry tell this unlikely tale.

**Cost** Free

**Venue** Clemenger BBDO Auditorium, NGV International

### ***Dream Child***

(1985 94 mins PG)  
Wed 27 Jan 10.30am

Years have passed and an elderly Alice in Wonderland is now Mrs Alice Hargraves. She visits America and flashes back to her friendship with Lewis Carroll and is haunted by characters from the original story. Puppets are by Jim Henson's Creature Shop.

**Cost** Free

**Venue** Clemenger BBDO Auditorium, NGV International

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## PUBLIC PROGRAMS *(continued)*

### NGV TALKS

#### **Floor Talk: Exhibition Introduction**

Sun 31 Jan, 1pm

**Speaker** David Hurlston

**Cost** Exhibition entry fees apply

**Venue** Exhibition space, Ground Level, NGV International

#### **Lecture: Missing Persons**

Thu 11 Feb, 6 for 6.30pm

Focusing on sculpture's fabled power to give shape to absent bodies, Justin Paton explores the place of the figure in the work of two renowned sculptors, Ricky Swallow and Ron Mueck, and looks at the role of shyness, slowness and sentiment in their art. Glass of champagne provided on arrival.

**Speaker** Justin Paton, Senior Curator, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, NZ

**Cost** \$18 Adult / \$12 NGV Member / \$14 Concession / \$10 Student (bookings essential)

**Venue** Clemenger BBDO Auditorium, NGV International

#### **Lecture: Body Image**

Wed 3 Mar, 6.30pm

Mueck plays with distortion and scale in his body of work, but how might this hyperrealism play out in real life and what are the psychological and physical manifestations of this? Join us as we investigate the modern day condition of body dysmorphic disorder in its many forms.

**Speaker** Prof David Castle, Chair of Psychiatry, St Vincent's Health and The University of Melbourne

**Cost** \$18 Adult / \$12 NGV Member / \$14 Concession / \$10 Student (bookings essential)

**Venue** Clemenger BBDO Auditorium, NGV International

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## CHRONOLOGY

- 1958** Ron Mueck is born in Melbourne, Australia.
- 1978–83** Works as creative director in Australian children's television.
- 1984** Travels to US then to UK to work in the film industry.
- 1986** Establishes himself in London and sets up company creating models for film, television and advertising industries.
- 1996** Asked by painter Paula Rego to create figure of Pinocchio to include in her tableau for *Spellbound: Art and Film*, held at Hayward Gallery. *Pinocchio* is seen by prominent art collector Charles Saatchi, who commissions him to make three new sculptures for his collection: *Dead Dad*, 1996–97; *Angel*, 1997; and *Mask*, 1997.
- 1997** *Dead Dad* is included in exhibition *Sensation: Young British Artists from the Saatchi Collection*, which opens at London Royal Academy of the Arts in September.
- 1998** Mueck starts working with Anthony d'Offay and has his first solo exhibition at the d'Offay Gallery, London in April.
- 1999** Completes his 4.9 metre high sculpture *Boy*, 1999, which is installed in *The Mind Zone* at London's Millennium Dome.
- 2000** Holds second solo exhibition with d'Offay Gallery in September. Ron is granted a two-year residency as Associate Artist, National Gallery, London. Produces works including *Mother and child*, 2001; *Man in a boat*, 2002; *Pregnant woman*, 2002; and *Swaddled baby*, 2002.
- 2001** *Boy*, 1999, is exhibited at la Biennale di Venezia 49 – the 49th Venice Biennale.
- 2002** First solo exhibition in Australia held at Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney in December. The exhibition, based on works produced during residency at the National Gallery, London, also includes *Crouching boy in mirror*, 1999–2002; *Old woman in bed*, 2000; and *Mask II*, 2001.  
*Directions: Ron Mueck* opens at Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC in July.

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## CHRONOLOGY *(continued)*

- 2003**      *Ron Mueck: Making Sculpture* at the National Gallery opens at National Gallery, London in March.  
*Ron Mueck: Hyperreal* opens at Nationalgalerie im Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin in September.  
*Ron Mueck* opens at Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem, Netherlands in November.
- 2005**      *Pregnant woman*, 2002, exhibited at National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne from 29 January until 27 February, and at Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane from 12 March until 5 June, in *Ron Mueck: The Making of Pregnant Woman*, a travelling exhibition organised by National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.  
Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris, presents *Ron Mueck* in November which includes five new sculptures: *In bed*, 2005; *Mask III*, 2005; *Spooning couple*, 2005; *Two women*, 2005; and *Wild man*, 2005
- 2006**      Versions of the Fondation Cartier exhibition travel to the National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh, where the new sculpture *A girl*, 2006, is added (5 August – 8 October 2006); Brooklyn Museum, New York (3 November 2006 – 4 February 2007); National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa (2 March – 6 May 2007); Modern Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas (24 June – 21 October 2007); Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh (13 December 2007 – 30 March 2008) and the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (26 April – 8 August 2008) – the artist's first major exhibition in Japan.
- 2007**      Special exhibition held for *A girl*, 2006, at the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga, Spain in March.
- 2008**      McClelland Gallery + Sculpture Park, Langwarrin, exhibits newly acquired *Wild man*, 2005, together with *Two women*, 2005, and *Pregnant woman*, 2002, in *Ron Mueck @ McClelland* (24 August – 2 November 2008).  
*Mask II*, 2002, included in *Statuephilia: Contemporary Sculptors at the British Museum*, British Museum, London in October.
- 2009**      *Mask III*, 2005; *Spooning couple*, 2005; and *Wild man*, 2005; featured in *ArtistRooms: Ron Mueck* at Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums, Scotland in August.