

WHO'S AFRAID OF COLOUR?

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia | 16 December 2016 – April 2017 | Free entry



24 NOVEMBER 2016: *Who's Afraid of Colour?* will bring together over 200 contemporary artworks by 118 Indigenous Australian women. Encompassing works from across artistic disciplines, from customary woven objects and bark paintings to contemporary acrylic canvases and modern photographic and digital works, this unprecedented survey of Indigenous Australian women's art from the NGV Collection will open on **16 December 2016 at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia.**

Tony Ellwood, Director, NGV, said, 'Since coming into prominence in the late 1980s, Indigenous women have transformed Australian contemporary art, experimenting boldly across artistic mediums and challenging popular notions about how Indigenous art should be created and interpreted. *Who's Afraid of Colour?* celebrates the diversity and daring of their work.'

Spread across six gallery spaces, *Who's Afraid of Colour?* will showcase a variety of contemporary artistic practices both traditional and experimental, including painting, sculpture, drawing, ceramics, glass, video, photography, jewellery, textiles, design and installation.

Major new acquisitions featured in the exhibition include iconic photographs by Melbourne-based artists **Destiny Deacon** and **Bindi Cole Chocka**, two artists using photography and digital media to explore and challenge notions around Aboriginality.

Large scale works by one of Australia's most prominent contemporary artists **Emily Kam Kngwarray** will be an exhibition highlight, including the painting *Anwerlarr anganenty (Big yam Dreaming)* 1995, measuring approximately three by eight metres, which travelled to the Royal Academy of Arts, London as part of the *Australia* exhibition in 2013. Emily Kam Kngwarray, Judy Watson and Yvonne Koolmatrie, all featured in this exhibition, represented Australia at the Venice Biennale in 1997 in a landmark moment which acknowledged the importance of Indigenous women's art practice on an international scale.



MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

MEDIA CONTACTS: MEDIA AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, NGV

MARION JOSEPH | 03 8620 2346 | 0427 147 999 | MARION.JOSEPH@NGV.VIC.GOV.AU

ELISABETH ALEXANDER | 03 8620 2347 | ELISABETH.ALEXANDER@NGV.VIC.GOV.AU

Exhibition highlights also include large bodies of work by individual artists which will be shown together for the first time, including a series of paintings by Warlpiri artist **Lorna Napurrurla Fencer**, mixed media and video works by the interdisciplinary Tasmanian Aboriginal artist **Julie Gough**, and paintings by the renowned Gija artist **Queenie McKenzie** of Warmun, Western Australia.

Images for non-commercial use and a caption guide for *Who's Afraid of Colour?* can be downloaded from:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zmczo72mhtn6bjn/AAC8zr1RAhXXx5CHpzB5RNuDa?dl=0>

Who's Afraid of Colour? is on display at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia from 16 December 2016 – April 2017.

-ends-

Media contacts:

Chloe Gordon, Media and Public Affairs | 03 8620 2373 | 0475 978 278 | chloe.gordon@ngv.vic.gov.au

Marion Joseph, Media and Public Affairs | 03 8620 2346 | 0427 147 999 | marion.joseph@ngv.vic.gov.au

Image:

Kuruwariyngathi Bijarrb Paula Paul

Kaiadilt born 1937

My country 2009

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

198.1 x 305.2 cm

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Purchased, NGV Supporters of Indigenous Art, 2009 (2009.578)

© Paula Paul/Licensed by VISCOPY, Australia