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

NGV Festival of Photography

Bill Henson

NGV International | 10 March – 27 August 2017 | FREE



The major solo exhibition, *Bill Henson*, will showcase recent works by the Australian photographer, who is celebrated for his powerful images that sensitively explore the complexities of the human condition.

The exhibition brings together twenty-three photographs selected by the artist, traversing the key themes in the artist's oeuvre, including sublime landscapes, portraiture, as well as classical sculpture captured in museum settings.

Inviting contemplation, Henson's works present open-ended narratives and capture an intriguing sense of the transitory. Henson's portraits show his subjects as introspective, focused on internal thoughts and dreams; his landscapes are photographed during the transitional moment of twilight; and the images shot on location inside museums juxtapose graceful marble statues against the transfixed visitors observing them.

Henson's work is renowned for creating a powerful sense of mystery and ambiguity through the use of velvet-like blackness in the shadows. This is achieved through the striking use of chiaroscuro, an effect of contrasting light and shadow, which is used to selectively obscure and reveal the form of the human body, sculptures and the landscape itself.

'Henson's photographs have a palpable sense of the cinematic and together they form a powerful and enigmatic visual statement,' said Tony Ellwood, Director, NGV.

'The NGV mounted Bill Henson's first solo exhibition in 1975 when Henson was only 19. Over forty years later, audiences to the NGV will be captivated by the beauty of Henson's images once more,' said Ellwood.

On display at the National Gallery of Victoria as part of the ingugural *NGV Festival of Photography*, the exhibition has been made possible by the extraordinary generosity of Bill Bowness, whose gift of twenty-one photographs by Henson makes the NGV's collection of his work the most significant of any public institution.

Bill Henson will be on display at NGV International, 180 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, Australia from 10 March to 27 August as part of the inaugural *NGV Festival of Photography*. Further information is available from the NGV website NGV.MELBOURNE. Entry is FREE. *Bill Henson* will tour to the Art Gallery of Western Australia in September 2017.

Donated through the Australian Governments Cultural Gifts Program by William Donald Bowness, 2016.

-continues-

CREATIVE VICTORIA

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

NGV FESTIVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY MARCH 2017

The inaugural *NGV Festival of Photography* in 2017 will be the largest display of photography in the NGV's history. Presented across multiple galleries at both NGV International and NGV Australia, the festival will feature solo exhibitions by **William Eggleston**, **Bill Henson**, **Patrick Pound**, **Zoë Croggon** and **Ross Coulter**, alongside dedicated displays, events and programs.

The *NGV Festival of Photography* will highlight new acquisitions of international and Australian photographers' works, which have been actively collected by the NGV in recent years, including the work of **Elad Lassry**, **Sophie Calle**, **Polly Borland**, **Pieter Hugo** and **Thomas Demand** amongst others. The festival will provide audiences an opportunity to be truly immersed in new works encompassing digitally produced prints as well as film based projects by both established and emerging artists.

-ends-

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

Tim Jones, Publicist, Media and Public Affairs, NGV
03 8620 2497 | 0412 620 003 | tim.jones@ngv.vic.gov.au

Image Caption:
Bill Henson
Australian born 1955
Untiled 2009/10 2009–2010
Inkjet print
102.1 x 152.0 cm (image)
126.5 x 177.6 cm (printed image border)
127.0 x 184.5 cm (sheet)
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Purchased, Victorian Foundation for Living Australia Artist, 2011 (2012.9)
© Bill Henson

CREATIVE VICTORIA