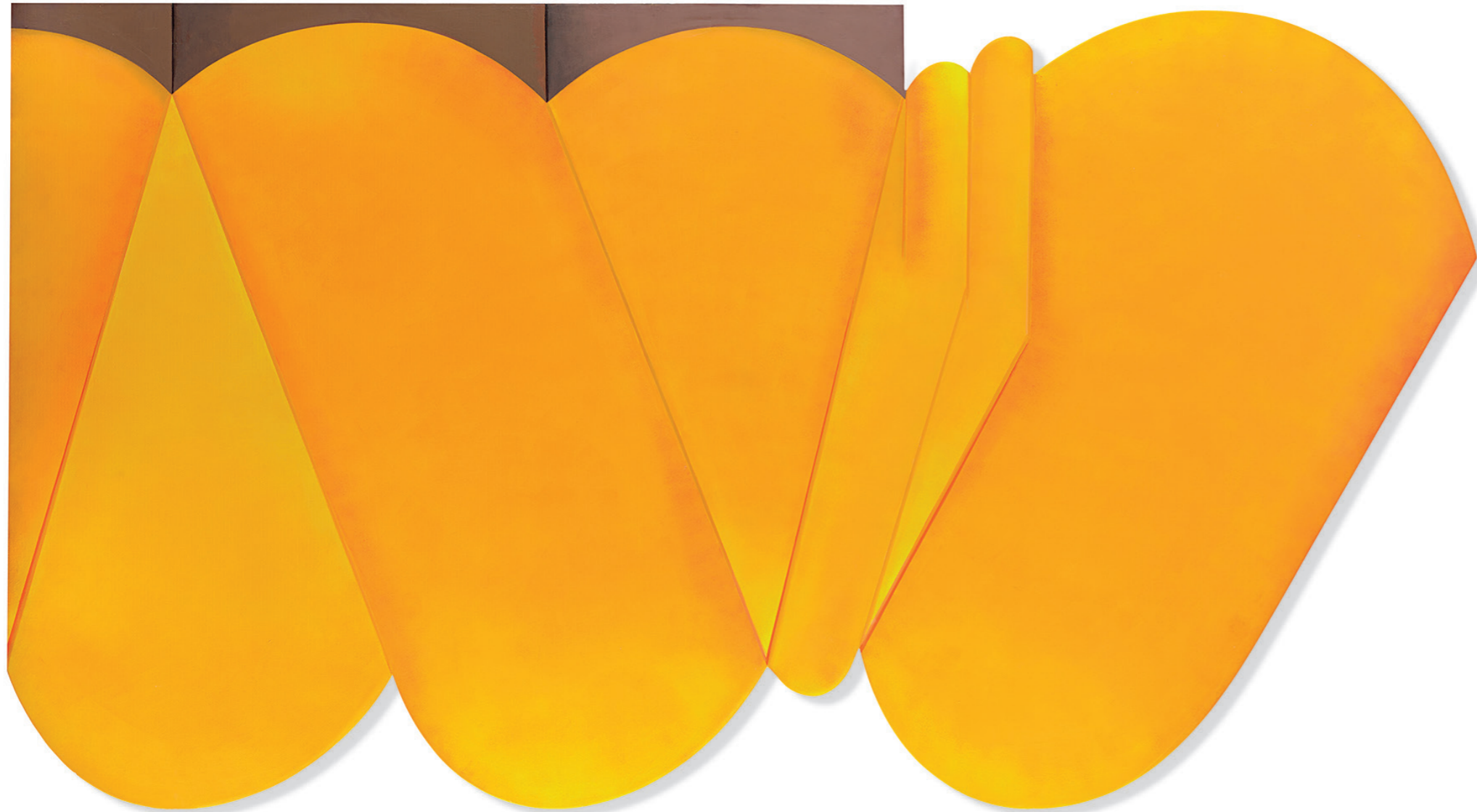


THE FIELD REVISITED

NGV



Janet Dawson
born Australia 1935
Rollascape 2 1968
synthetic polymer paint on composition board
150.0 x 275.0 cm irreg.
Art Gallery of Ballarat, Ballarat
Purchased with the assistance of the Visual Arts/Craft Board,
Australia Council, 1988 (1998.2)
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THE IAN POTTER CENTRE: NGV AUSTRALIA

27 APR 18 – 26 AUG 18
Level 3

Regarded as a landmark exhibition in Australian art history, *The Field* opened the National Gallery of Victoria's new premises on St Kilda Road in 1968. The inaugural exhibition was a radical presentation of seventy-four works by forty artists, who were primarily producing art that was flat, abstract, patterned, geometric or in the colour field style. With its silver foil-covered walls and geometric light fittings, *The Field* opened to much controversy and helped launch the careers of a generation of Australian artists, including Sydney Ball, Peter Booth, Janet Dawson and Robert Jacks. Eighteen of the exhibiting artists were under the age of thirty, with Robert Hunter the youngest at twenty-one years of age.

The Field catalysed debate in the late 1960s regarding the course of Australian art – the exhibition was divisive and its reception varied. For many, it seemed odd to open the Gallery's new premises with such a narrowly focused exhibition, particularly for those who were accustomed to the prevailing style of figuration. Some artists were unhappy that they were not included and felt the inaugural exhibition should have instead highlighted the achievements of Australian art history. However, the NGV's selection of predominantly emerging artists, proposed a new direction for the Gallery, one that was committed to the avant-garde.

STUDENT PROGRAM

INTRODUCTORY TALK

VCE
MON-FRI, 10AM, 11:30AM, 1PM & 2:30PM

Students will be introduced to the abstract, colour field, geometric and hard-edge painting and sculpture that featured in *The Field* exhibition in 1968. Consideration will be given to the historical and cultural contexts of the works and the exhibition. Materials and techniques employed by the artists will be discussed along with the legacy of this radical exhibition.

Cost \$8 (45 mins)

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E edu.bookings@ngv.vic.gov.au
P 03 8620 2340, 9am–5pm weekdays

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