

## BROOK ANDREW: THE RIGHT TO OFFEND IS SACRED

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia | 3 March – 4 June 2017 | Free entry



*Brook Andrew: The Right to Offend is Sacred* will bring together more than 100 works by an Australian artist well known for reinterpreting colonial and modern history and offering alternative perspectives. Two new large-scale sculptures featuring bespoke wooden cabinets, a giant inflatable globe, and archival books, photographs and objects from Andrew's extensive personal collection, will also go on display when this solo exhibition opens at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia on 3 March 2017.

The exhibition will map great moments in Brook Andrew's 25-year career, and will look at the artist's fascination with archival materials and strong interest in process that remain central to his practice. Andrew's interdisciplinary and collaborative approach encompasses mediums of

photography, video, neon, text, collage, printmaking, assemblage, sculpture, painting and installation.

Tony Ellwood, Director, NGV, said, 'Brook Andrew is an artist of great invention and eloquence, whose work interrogates racial stereotypes and contemporary consumer culture with artistic flair. His is a uniquely Australian voice in a global discussion around colonial histories, working as he does with Indigenous communities at home and abroad to create art that prompts reflection.'

In addition to Andrew's new works, exhibition highlights will include the *Gun-metal Grey* series of 2007 which transforms deliberately darkened ethnographic photos of unidentified Indigenous people into haunting large-scale screen-printed portraits that seemingly appear and disappear, giving back the status, individuality and beauty stripped from the subjects by the colonial scientific lens.

Three monumental 2.5 x 3-metre collage works from the 2016 *Space & Time* series feature archival photographs screen-printed on glistening foil, and embellished with bright paint and collage in order to reveal and counter hierarchies in the telling of history, and to emphasise connections between human beings across time and space.

Andrew's signature neon light works, Wiradjuri word plays and 'Wiradjuri Op' paintings comment on the relationship between consumer culture and Indigenous communities by combining the capitalist Western visual languages of advertising with Indigenous words and designs.

*Brook Andrew: The Right to Offend is Sacred* will also unveil many works that have never been exhibited before, including some from Andrew's time at art school, and experimental works relating to his seminal print series, *Hope & Peace* 2005 and *Danger of Authority* 2009.

This exhibition will be accompanied by a richly illustrated publication featuring essays by Judith Ryan, Senior Curator of Indigenous Art, NGV, Professor Marcia Langton AM, Dr Anthony Gardner and Nick Aikens.



## MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

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*Brook Andrew: The Right to Offend is Sacred* is on display at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia from 3 March – 4 June 2017. Entry is free.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

### PROGRAMS

#### Brook Andrew in Conversation

**Sat 4 Mar, 11am**

Brook Andrew's work often confronts dangerous ideas and questions conventional readings of the world. Listen in as Brook explains his interdisciplinary practice and artistic influences.

**Speakers** Brook Andrew, artist; Anne Loxley, Senior Curator, C3West, Museum of Contemporary Art and Judith Ryan, Senior Curator, Indigenous Art, NGV

**Cost** Free, bookings essential

**Venue** Exhibition space

#### Brook Andrew: The Right to Offend is Sacred Book Launch

**Sat 18 Mar, 2pm**

Published by the NGV, *Brook Andrew: The Right to Offend is Sacred* unpacks the constantly shifting aesthetics and recurring themes of Andrew's art practice over his twenty-five-year career. This book launch will be part of the program for the 2017 Melbourne Art Book Fair, and will feature Brook Andrew and his long-time collaborator Trent Walter in conversation, moderated by Simon Maidment, Senior Curator of Contemporary Art, NGV.

**Speakers** Brook Andrew, artist; Trent Walter, artist, printer and publisher; Simon Maidment, Senior Curator of Contemporary Art, NGV

**Cost** Free

**Venue** NGV International

#### The Importance of Remembering

**Thu 20 Apr, 6.30pm**

How do artists respond to history and archives to create new memories? Guest panellists discuss the different ways artists around the world interpret *remembering* to commemorate histories.

**Speakers** Brook Andrew, artist; Prof Marcia Langton AM, Foundation Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies, The University of Melbourne; and Prof Barbara Glowczewski, French National Scientific Research Center

**Cost** Free, bookings essential

**Venue** Exhibition space

#### Curator's Perspective

**Sat 21 May, 11am**

**Speaker** Judith Ryan, Senior Curator, Indigenous Art, NGV

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#### Image:

##### Brook Andrew

Born Australia 1970

*Guardians of the galaxy: the motherhood number 2016*

from the *Space & Time* series

ink and screenprint on metallic foil on canvas, collage of screenprint on coloured metallic foil

250cm x 300cm x 5cm

printed by Stewart Russell, Spacecraft, Melbourne

collection of Clinton Ng, Sydney

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