



## MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

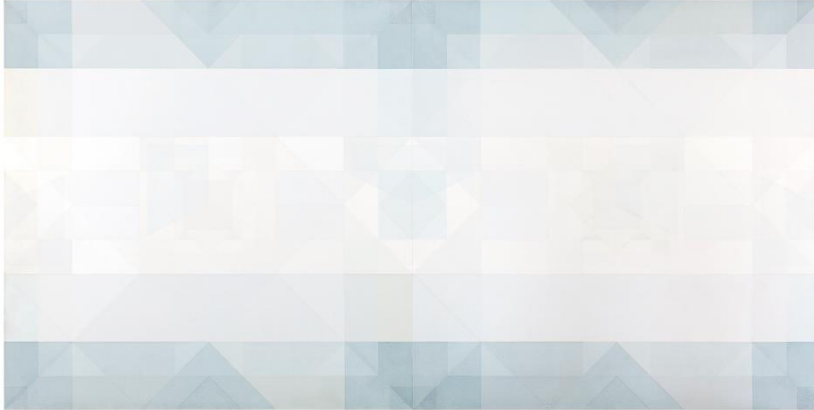
MEDIA CONTACTS: MEDIA AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, NGV

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### Robert Hunter: Major retrospective of Australian abstract painter Robert Hunter on display at NGV Australia

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia | 27 April 2018 – 26 August 2018 | FREE



**27 April 2018:** Renowned for his complex geometric white-on-white paintings, Robert Hunter (1947 – 2014) will be celebrated in a major retrospective at NGV Australia featuring more than 40 works which traverse his more than 40-year career.

At age 21, Hunter was the youngest artist to participate in the landmark exhibition *The Field* at the NGV in 1968. This exhibition announced the arrival of late-modernist abstraction

into Australia and opened the new NGV building on St Kilda Road. By the age of 27, Hunter had established himself internationally and was invited to participate in major international exhibitions including *Eight Contemporary Artists* at New York's Museum of Modern Art in 1974.

Throughout his career, Hunter maintained an unwavering commitment to a singular aesthetic, creating complex patterns using everyday materials such as masking tape and white Dulux house paint. Each of Hunter's paintings took up to three months to create and test the very limits of visual perception, revealing clean, crisp geometries and subtle hints of colour upon close inspection.

In the 1970s Hunter made numerous, ephemeral large-scale works by painting directly on the wall, and two important examples will be recreated in this exhibition. A number of other key works from the 1960s, including a rare colourful painting made while the artist was still a student, will also be on display, surprising even those familiar with his works.

Tony Ellwood, Director, NGV said, 'Robert Hunter maintained a distinctive practice for more than four decades. Upon close inspection, his finely nuanced paintings reveal endless variations of colour, light and geometry that draw the viewer into a deep contemplation of visual perception. This is an exhibition that invites visitors to slow down, look closely and admire the achievements of one of Australia's finest abstract painters.'

**Robert Hunter** is FREE and on display from 27 April – 26 August 2018 at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia at Federation Square. Additional information is available from the NGV website: [NGV.MELBOURNE](http://NGV.MELBOURNE)  
**Robert Hunter** will run concurrently with **The Field Revisited** from 27 April – 26 August 2018 at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia at Federation Square. Additional information is available from the NGV website: [NGV.MELBOURNE](http://NGV.MELBOURNE)

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## PROGRAMS

### **CURATOR'S PERSPECTIVE**

**Saturday 28 April, 11 – 11.30am**

Robert Hunter is one of very few Australian artists to participate at the centre of an international art movement and he maintained an unswerving commitment to a singular aesthetic. Exhibition curator, Jane Devery, shares her insights in to the complexities of Hunter's work, and his place in Australian art history.

**Speaker:** Jane Devery, Curator, Contemporary Art, NGV

**Cost:** Free

**Venue:** Exhibition space, NGVA

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## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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### **Image caption:**

**Robert Hunter**

*Untitled no. 1* 1987

acrylic on plywood

122.0 x 244.5 cm

Tarrawarra Museum of Art

Gift of Eva Besen and Marc Besen AO 2001

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