



MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

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Modern-day trailblazers defining the future through design

NGV International | 28 September 2018 – 24 March 2019 | FREE



The NGV's *Designing Women* exhibition will highlight the dynamic and critical force of female designers in shaping contemporary design culture with works including *Oru Chair* by UAE's Aljoud Lootah, *Yang Metamorphosis* designed by Carlotta de Bevilacqua for Artemide and *Horse Lamp* by Swedish design studio Front Design.

Drawn from the NGV Collection, *Designing Women* will explore lighting, furniture, object and fashion design, together with architecture, textiles and contemporary jewellery. More than sixty diverse works will be showcased alongside new acquisitions, all united by their female authorship.

The exhibition includes works by fifty designers, from Australian icons such as Elliat Rich and Helen Kontouris to international trailblazers including Zaha Hadid and Neri Oxman. Exploring the themes of leadership, research, teamwork and community, the exhibition emphasises the accelerating opportunity for contemporary women to shape the future in a world increasingly defined by design.

Lee Darroch, a Yorta Yorta, Mutti Mutti, Boon Wurrung artist from Gippsland, is at the forefront of the revival of the sacred cultural practice of possum cloak making in Victorian Aboriginal communities. An NGV commission, Darroch's 25-pelt possum skin cloak will tell the story of identity, Yorta Yorta Country, and the Dhugula, Kaila and Yalooka rivers, in addition to her compelling family history.

Other exhibition highlights include *Genesy Lamp* by **Zaha Hadid**, for Italian lighting design manufacturer Artemide. Almost two metres tall, *Genesy Lamp* is inspired by the growth patterns of trees within a forest. Zaha Hadid's use of advanced design and manufacturing technology placed her at the forefront of architectural and design practice for nearly forty years. Her designs are characterised by a beauty that is connected to innovation, future technologies and social progress.

Designing Women will feature *Bloom* staged as a dynamic installation; a swelling, neon pink structure shaped with coils, rings, spirals and branches. The work is made up of interlocking pieces called 'cells', which are used to build a formation that is unique each time the work is displayed, referencing the interaction between people in public spaces. Croatian architect and digital researcher **Alisa Andrasek** is a professor of design innovation at RMIT University in Melbourne. Designed in collaboration with Chilean architect Jose Sanchez, *Bloom* was commissioned by the Greater London Authority for a series of events during the Olympic and Paralympic games in 2012.

Tony Ellwood AM, Director, NGV said, '*Designing Women* showcases a diverse and broad range of exceptional international and local design produced by some of the most exciting, innovative and dynamic designers of the last forty years. Featuring recently acquired works, this exhibition highlights the breadth and richness of the NGV's Collection.'

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The NGV Department of Contemporary Design and Architecture is generously supported by The Hugh D. T. Williamson Foundation.

Designing Women is on display at NGV International from 28 September 2018 – 24 March 2019. Tickets and information are available from the NGV website: NGV.MELBOURNE

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IMAGE CAPTION

Carlotta de Bevilacqua, *Yang Metamorphosis* 2000 for Artemide, Italy

Image courtesy the designer

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