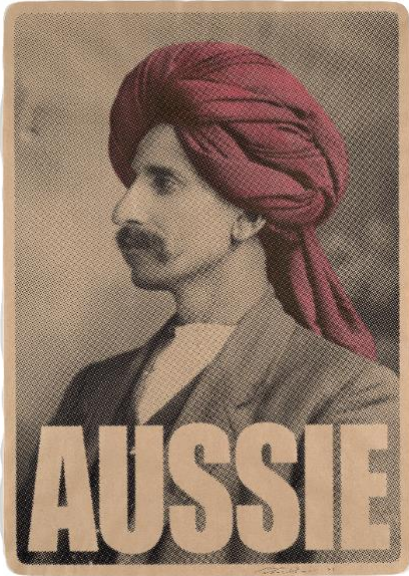


We Change the World: new exhibition considers how art and design can inspire change

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia | 7 May – 19 September 2021 | FREE entry



7 May 2021: *We Change the World*, an interactive all ages exhibition at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, invites audiences to consider how art and design can inspire positive change in our society, and encourages visitors to think about their own potential to create change as individuals.

The exhibition features more than sixty works of Australian and international contemporary art, design and fashion from the NGV Collection, including work by Ben Quilty, the Guerrilla Girls, Richard Bell, Delissa Walker, Marlene Gilson, Ai Weiwei and Iris van Herpen. Spanning four thematic sections – the environment, activism, the everyday and the future – the exhibition explores some of the complex contemporary issues that are of particular concern to young people, including the climate emergency, entrenched inequalities, humanitarian injustices, culture and identity.

The exhibition features interactive activities and digital content that invite audiences to directly engage with the themes of the exhibition, including a specially designed QR-code voting system and microsite that encourages visitors to be an active part of a discussion inspired by the art and design on display. As visitors move through the space, they also encounter text-based provocations and questions incorporated into the exhibition design, which invite

critical thinking and personal reflection.

Highlight works include a new acquisition by contemporary Australian painter Ben Quilty entitled *150 year, Rorschach*, 2019. During a bushwalk in the NSW Southern Highlands, Quilty and his son came across a National Parks and Wildlife sign that described the location as ‘a favourite gathering place for locals for more than 150 years’. The waterholes have been important locations for the Gundangara people for millennia and Quilty created this painting in response to the ongoing institutional denial of Aboriginal history.

Also on display are Peter Drew’s *Aussie* series of street posters, which he created from portrait photographs of diverse background Australians found in the National Archives of Australia. Emblazoned with the text “Aussie”, Drew’s campaign sought to draw attention to historical and contemporary prejudices by challenging the people’s notion of what a typical Australian might look like.

Featured works also include Hoda Afshar’s two-channel film *Remain*, 2018, which follows a group of stateless men after the Manus Island immigration detention centre was closed in 2017, and *The landing*, 2018, in which Wauthurung artist Marlene Gilson recontextualises early colonial visual narratives which now encompass Aboriginal people within the scene.

Further highlight works explore the power of art to celebrate the simplicity of everyday rituals and domesticity, and how learning to appreciate our surroundings can lead to new and mindful perspectives. These include British artist David Hockney’s iPad drawings, which illuminate everyday objects found around his home that inform identity and his daily routine.

Tony Ellwood AM, Director, National Gallery of Victoria said: ‘*We Change the World* invites audiences – both young and old – to explore their own potential for create change through the work of leading artists and designers from the NGV Collection. Change, at its heart, is a creative gesture; and this exhibition celebrates the power of art and design to inspire us all to be creative, to celebrate uniqueness, to find our own voice and to think differently.’

We Change the World has been curated across multiple departments at the National Gallery of Victoria, including the departments of Contemporary Art, Contemporary Design and Architecture, Indigenous Art and Audience Engagement and Learning. The exhibition is accompanied by a microsite featuring new texts, videos, virtual discussions, as well as online learning resources for schools to address key learning areas that align with the curriculum.



MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

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We Change the World will run 7 May to 19 September 2021 at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Fed Square, Melbourne. Further information is available via the [NGV website](#).

Images: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/h1kgoossq42qn2a/AACFNMHXo1syicyx79cp8VJua?dl=0>

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Image caption:

Peter Drew

Australian born 1983

Monga Khan 1916 2016, 2019 printed

from the *Aussie* series 2016

brush and ink on screenprint

114.5 x 80.5 cm (image) 117.5 x 83.5 cm (sheet)

Purchased, NGV Supporters of Prints and Drawings, 2020