

Found and Gathered: Rosalie Gascoigne | Lorraine Connelly-Northey

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia | 30 October 2021 - 20 February 2022 | FREE

Uniting two important Australian artists for the first time, *Found and Gathered: Rosalie Gascoigne | Lorraine Connelly-Northey* brings attention to the shared materiality at the heart of the practices of both Rosalie Gascoigne (1917–1999) and Lorraine Connelly-Northey (b. 1967) and their transformative use of found and discarded objects to create surprising and beautiful works of art.



Through a major display of more than 75 wall-based and sculptural works that traverses the entire ground-floor of The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, the exhibition will highlight each artist's unique and significant place within Australian art, while also illuminating the sympathetic relationships between their works, exemplified by their shared use of materials such as corrugated iron, wire and other media.

New Zealand-born Gascoigne moved to Mount Stromlo in 1943 and the surrounding region greatly inspired her artistic practice thenceforth. Gascoigne is recognised for her textural works assembled from discarded items, including corrugated iron, feathers, wood and wire, as well as her distinctive wall-mounted pieces formed from reflective road signs and soft drink cases. Evoking the lyrical beauty of her local region through her use of materials, Gascoigne's poetic works have had a radical impact on the ways in which the Australian landscape is represented and perceived. Her first exhibition was held in 1974 when she was 57 years old, and in 1982, Gascoigne was selected as the inaugural female artist to represent Australia at the Venice Biennale.

Born in 1962 and raised at Swan Hill in western Victoria, on Wamba Wamba traditional lands, Connelly-Northey is influenced by an amalgam of her father's Irish ancestry and mother's Waradgerie (Wiradjuri) heritage. She utilises materials often associated with European settlement and industrialisation and repurposes them into sculptural works that reference little-known traditional weaving techniques and Indigenous cultural objects, such as kooliman and dilly bags. Through her work, Connelly-Northey explores the dynamic and resilient nature of both her Country and Aboriginal heritage.

The exhibition will include works by both artists held in the NGV Collection as well as works from major public institutions and private collections around Australia. Highlight works include Gascoigne's *Pink window* 1975, comprised of a found weathered window frame and corrugated iron. The work is the artist's first galvanised iron work and is constructed to look like a drawn curtain, reflecting her memories of loneliness when she first moved to Mount Stromlo. *Flash art* 1987, also on display, is one of Gascoigne's earliest assemblages and is uniquely fabricated out of salvaged reflective road signs.

Connelly-Northey's *Three rivers country* 2010, pays homage to the artist's maternal knowledge of water on Country, representing the land of her mother's tribal boundary. A further work by Connelly-Northey is the wall-based *Possum-skin cloak: Blackfella road*, 2011-13, which uses woven barbed wire to reference the traditional garment. The use of materials by the artist signifies the desecration of Aboriginal burial sites that resulted from the construction of an unsealed road near Swan Hill.

Tony Ellwood AM, Director of the National Gallery of Victoria, said: 'Gascoigne and Connelly-Northey share a unique ability to create meaning from abandoned objects that might otherwise be overlooked or considered without purpose. This exhibition celebrates this shared quality, as well as both artist's individual reverence for place and the central role it plays in their work.'

Found and Gathered: Rosalie Gascoigne | Lorraine Connelly-Northey will be on display at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia from 30 October 2021 to 20 February 2022. Entry is free. For further details, please visit the NGV website: [NGV.MELBOURNE](https://www.ngv.com.au)

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IMAGES: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ccfpisqzb360tw6/AAAEPlqo9vm_K-MmT_HnWIEa?dl=0

IMAGE CAPTIONS:

(left image)

Lorraine Connelly-Northey

Waradgerie 1962

Possum skin cloak 2005-2006

rusted corrugated iron, wire

119.5 x 131.5 x 5.0 cm

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Purchased, NGV Supporters and Patrons of Indigenous Art, 2006

© Lorraine Connelly-Northey

(right image)

Rosalie Gascoigne

New Zealand 1917-1999

Flash art 1987

tar on reflective synthetic polymer film on wood

244.0 x 213.5 cm

Purchased with funds donated by the Loti & Victor Smorgon Fund, 2010 (2010.4)

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

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Media Contacts:

Marion Joseph, Associate Director, Media and Public Affairs, NGV

0427 147 999 | marion.joseph@ngv.vic.gov.au

Amy Silver, Senior Publicist, Media and Public Affairs, NGV

0448 289 795 | amy.silver@ngv.vic.gov.au

Bonnie Horne, Media and Public Affairs Officer, NGV

0448 369 260 | bonnie.horne@ngv.vic.gov.au

Briana Tomasino, Media and Public Affairs Officer, NGV

0408 333 399 | briana.tomasino@ngv.vic.gov.au