



Media release

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A message from the Geelong Gallery Board

Tuesday 4 August 2020



Geelong Gallery collection
installation view, Geelong Gallery, 2018
Photographer: Andrew Curtis



Geelong Gallery 360° virtual tour

In response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic and in line with the Stage 3 restrictions announced by the Victorian Government, the Geelong Gallery Board last night decided to temporarily close the Gallery from 5pm on Wednesday 5 August until at least Sunday 13 September 2020.

Geelong Gallery's priority is to protect and safeguard our visitors, members, staff and volunteers and to take the necessary measures to contain COVID-19 in our broader community.

Public programs, learning programs and outreach programs will be converted to online with information soon to be released.

The Gallery's Senior Management Team and Executive Committee of the Board are meeting regularly to assess the situation and are taking their lead from federal and state health authorities, Victoria's Chief Medical Officer and our institutional colleagues.

We will continue to provide updates regarding our return to operations via our website, e-communications and through social media channels as the situation evolves and in response to Government advice.

Current exhibitions, *Going public—portraits from the Colin Holden collection* and *Resonance+Reflection—design ideas for an expanded Geelong Gallery* will close at 5pm on Wednesday 5 August prior to the scheduled date of Sunday 30 August.

Our purpose is to provide experiences of art that enrich people's lives. We understand that engagement in the arts is essential to our wellbeing and is particularly important in times of uncertainty. We encourage you to continue to engage with the Gallery and the cultural sector on social media and by accessing our digital resources and programs.

Geelong Gallery's digital offerings currently include a 360° virtual tour of our collection and exhibitions, Curator insights and digital programs presented on the Gallery Channel, learning resources and activity sheets to assist with remote learning.

Our staff will revert to working from home from Thursday 6 August with some onsite presence to ensure the safety and security of the collection. We seek your understanding as we adjust our systems to these remote operations once more.

Thank you, once again, for your support and understanding during this difficult time. All of us at Geelong Gallery wish you and your families good health and we look forward to welcoming you back to the Gallery soon.

Please consult the Department of Health and Human Services guidelines and recommendations provided here for further information.

Geelong Gallery President,
Gerard Mullaly and Geelong Gallery
Director & CEO, **Jason Smith**

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