



Media Release

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The Look

Geelong Gallery
7 March to 3 May 2020

Open daily 10am to 5pm
Closed Good Friday



Bryan Brown, 2008 by Adam Knott
Collection: National Portrait Gallery

Geelong Gallery is pleased to present a powerful new exhibition from the National Portrait Gallery, *The Look*. As the first venue on the national tour, and the only Victorian destination, Geelong Gallery will host the exhibition consisting of 68 portraits that provide a comprehensive line-up of identities and styles.

The Look is a visually stunning photographic exhibition showcasing striking portraits curated from the National Portrait Gallery's collection of works.

The exhibition features subjects from all walks of Australian life; young, old; Indigenous, non-Indigenous; women and men; household names and people who may be completely unknown to many of us.

National Portrait Gallery (NPG) Curator, **Joanna Gilmour** explains that *The Look* highlights some of the most striking contemporary photographic portraits in the NPG collection.

'Often our collection-based exhibitions are focussed on a specific thing—a specific artist, medium, time-frame, historical theme or profession, for example. The guiding curatorial principle for *The Look* has been to celebrate a diverse group of sitters who are united in owning and rocking their distinct 'Look'.'

'It's a way that we can spill a guilty secret: that portraiture can be perky, sexy, sly, wry, honest, contemplative or relaxed; and that sometimes it's perfectly fine to admire a portrait not just because the subject is compelling, inspirational or distinguished, but simply because they exude their own unique style. We also take pride in being able to dismantle the misconception that portraiture is all about crusty old oil paintings of dead white males.'

Geelong Gallery Director & CEO, Jason Smith, says 'People love portraiture because it generates an immediate connection between viewer and subject. We are delighted to be working with the National Portrait Gallery to host *The Look*. Following the success of our presentation of the 2017 and 2018 *Archibald Prize* exhibitions from the Art Gallery of New South Wales, we know our local and wider regional audiences will be thrilled with the exceptional range of Australians portrayed in *The Look*. A comprehensive public and education program will be released in the coming months and this will further explore the people, life stories and artists behind many of the works in this fascinating exhibition.'

The works span five decades, from the *George Spartels* early 1970s portrait by Ivan Gaal to *Tilman Ruff* 2019 by Nikki Toole, and include works by photographers Adam Knott, Julian Kingma, Michael Riley, Petrina Hicks, Tracey Moffatt, David Rosetzky, Ingvar Kenne, Andrew Maccoll and more.

Famous faces in the exhibition include; Nicole Kidman, Heath Ledger, Carla Zampatti, Bryan Brown, Lee Lin Chin, Megan Gale, Cate Blanchett, Rachel Griffiths, Ian Thorpe and Layne Beachley just to name a few.

The Look exhibition opens at Geelong Gallery on Saturday 7 March 2020.

Entry prices apply: Adult \$11 | Concession \$9 | Members \$8 | Child \$6 | Family \$28



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55 Little Malop Street
Geelong VIC 3220 Australia

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Drop-in tours
Saturday and Sunday



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Public programs

The Look—Joanna Gilmour
Saturday 7 March at 11.00am

Join National Portrait Gallery Curator, Joanna Gilmour for a guided tour exploring the striking photographic portraits of contemporary figures from the National Portrait Gallery collection.

Exhibition entry fees apply | No bookings required

Afterhours—The Look
Friday 13 March, from 5.30pm to 8.00pm

Join us after hours at the Gallery to celebrate the National Portrait Gallery touring exhibition *The Look*. Enjoy a splendid mix of art, live music, a pop-up bar with food and a special in-conversation.

Exhibition entry fees apply | No bookings required

Portrait Play

Saturday 14 March, from 10.30am to 11.30am

Explore *The Look* with National Portrait Gallery educators—discover stories, copy poses, look for clues and experiment with expression and your own look.

Suitable for ages 4 to 8

Children must be accompanied by an adult

Cost: Adult \$11 | Child \$6 | Bookings essential

Talking art—Portrait of Cate Blanchett

A Geelong Contemporary event
Thursday 23 April, from 6.00pm to 7.30pm

Join Geelong Gallery Director and CEO, Jason Smith and prominent contemporary artist, David Rosetzky, in conversation exploring the artists' moving image portrait of Cate Blanchett commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery in 2008.

Geelong Contemporary supports the acquisition of contemporary art for Geelong Gallery.

Ticket includes beer, wine and canapés

Cost: Members \$25 | Non-members \$30

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A National Portrait Gallery touring exhibition

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

Exhibition program partners



Australian Government
National Collecting Institutions
Touring & Outreach Program

This exhibition is supported by the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program, an Australian Government program aiming to improve access to the national collections for all Australians

Learn program partners



Anthony Costa
Foundation



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