

MEDIA RELEASE

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ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS TO STAGE LANDMARK AUSTRALIAN ART EXHIBITION IN LONDON

The National Gallery of Australia and the Royal Academy of Arts today announced a partnership that will enable a landmark survey exhibition presenting 200 years of Australian art on the theme of land and landscape to be staged in London from 21 September 2013 to 8 December 2013.

The exhibition will present approximately 150 outstanding examples of Australian art, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, from 1800 until the present day. Compelling Australian works about land and landscape will be drawn from the national art collection and other public collections in Australia and Britain.

‘The Royal Academy of the Arts is delighted to partner with the National Gallery of Australia. Their support in the staging of this long overdue and important survey exhibition of Australian art in the UK will be invaluable,’ said Charles Saumarez Smith, Secretary & Chief Executive at the Royal Academy of Arts.

‘We believe this exhibition will capture the imagination of audiences here and strengthen the cultural connection between our two nations. The exhibition will consider the uniqueness of the Australian landscape and its depiction, revealing the breadth and complexity of Australian art over two centuries, and the relationship of its peoples with that land,’ said Kathleen Soriano, Director of Exhibitions at the Academy.

“The Royal Academy of Arts has an impressive track record of presenting important exhibitions that attract very large audiences in the centre of London. This partnership is a great opportunity to present Australia’s strong visual arts tradition both indigenous and non-indigenous in Europe,” said Ron Radford AM, Director of the National Gallery of Australia.

‘An important role of the National Gallery of Australia is to promote Australian visual arts culture internationally. We are immensely pleased to be working closely with the Royal Academy of Arts to present this major survey of Australian art from the 1800s to the present day,’ said Ron Radford, Director of the National Gallery of Australia.

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded in 1768 by George III. It has a unique position as an independent, privately funded institution led by eminent artists and architects. The main purpose is to promote the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate.

The National Gallery of Australia toured the *National Indigenous Art Triennial* to Washington DC in 2009 and *Andy and Oz: Parallel Visions* to Pittsburgh in 2007.

For images please go to: www.nga.gov.au/mediacentre

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