



AUSTRALIA // VISUAL ARTS  
AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

## POLLY BORLAND

National Gallery of Victoria

The National Gallery of Victoria will present an exhibition of new and recent work by renowned Australian artist Polly Borland, who is famed for her beguiling photographs of noted figures, including Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, musician Nick Cave and actress Gwendoline Christie.

The exhibition will include 60 works spanning the last 10 years and reveal Borland's celebrated ability to render the body in alluring, enigmatic and surreal compositions, often inviting the viewer to see the human form in unfamiliar ways.

A new tapestry work of Borland's celebrated photograph of The Queen, taken for Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee in 2002, will be a highlight of the exhibition. Created in collaboration with Fine Cell Work, an English prisoner's advocacy organisation that trains prisoners to undertake paid, skilled needlework from their cells, this large-scale tapestry will be shown for the first time double-sided,

allowing viewers to admire both the composition and highly skilled construction of the work.

The exhibition will also include works from several of Borland's recent series, including *Bunny*, in which Gwendoline Christie's distorted figure is used to subvert the idea of a Playboy bunny girl, and the carnivalesque *Smudge* featuring Nick Cave, in which her subjects – disguised by garish wigs, stockings and make-up – oscillate between the masculine and feminine, fantasy and reality.

In a mesmerising large-scale display, Borland will showcase a new series of large lenticular works, taking the illusive quality of her portraits to new, three-dimensional scales. Borland will also unveil a never-before-seen body of new work that has been created especially for the NGV exhibition.

'Borland shoots on film, taking many roles of film to achieve the final images, and never altering the works in post-production. The works reveal Borland's finely crafted skill for capturing uncanny moments that stretch our understanding of the human body,' said Tony Ellwood, Director, NGV.

**'One of the most intriguing careers of any Australian artist.'** – The Design Files.

Presented in association with the National Gallery of Victoria.

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**Polly Borland**

*Untitled (Nick Cave in a blue wig)* 2010  
Type C photograph, 1815.0 x 1500.0 cm,  
National Gallery of Victoria

**The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia**

**Fri 28 Sep 2018 – Sun 3 Feb 2019**

**10am- 5pm daily**

**Sat & Sun 11am – 5pm**

**Free**

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Arts Centre Melbourne 1300 182 183

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