

# MELBOURNE NOW

ngv  
National  
Gallery of  
Victoria

22 November 2013 – 23 March 2014 | The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia and NGV International

## Introduction



Assembling over 250 outstanding commissions, acquired and loaned works and installations, *Melbourne Now* explores the idea that a city is significantly shaped by the artists, designers and architects who live and work in its midst. It reflects the complexity of Melbourne and its unique and dynamic cultural identity, considering a diverse range of creative practice as well as the cross-disciplinary work occurring in Melbourne today.

*Melbourne Now* is an ambitious project that represents a new direction for the National Gallery of Victoria in terms of its scope and its relationship with audiences.

Drawing on the talents of more than 400 artists and designers from across a wide variety of art forms, *Melbourne Now* will offer an experience unprecedented in this city; from video, sound and light installations, to interactive community exhibitions and artworks, to gallery spaces housing working design and architectural practices.

The exhibition will be an immersive, inclusive and participatory exhibition experience, providing a rich and compelling insight into Melbourne's art, design and cultural practice at this moment.

*Melbourne Now* aims to engage and reflect the inspiring range of activities that drive contemporary art and creative practice in Melbourne, and is the first of many steps to activate new models of art and interdisciplinary exhibition practice and participatory modes of audience engagement at the NGV.

The collaborative curatorial structure of *Melbourne Now* has seen more than twenty NGV curators working across disciplinary and departmental areas in collaboration with exhibition designers, public programs and education departments, among others. The project also involves a number of guest curators contributing to specific contexts, including architecture and design, performance and sound, as well as artist-curators invited to create 'exhibitions within the exhibition', develop off-site projects and to work with the NGV's collection. Examples of these include *Sampling the City: Architecture in Melbourne Now*, curated by Fleur Watson; *Drawing Now*, curated by artist John Nixon, bringing together the work of forty-two artists; *ZOOM*, an immersive data visualisation of cultural demographics related to the future of the city, convened by Ewan McEoin; *Melbourne Design Now*, which explores creative intelligence in the fields of industrial, product, furniture and object design, curated by Simone LeAmon; and *un Retrospective, curated by un Magazine*. Other special projects present recent developments in jewellery design, choreography and sound.

Numerous special projects have been developed by NGV curators, including *Designer Thinking*, focusing on the culture of bespoke fashion design studios in Melbourne, and a suite of new commissions and works by Indigenous artists from across Victoria which reflect upon the history and legacies of colonial and postcolonial Melbourne. The NGV collection is also the subject of artistic reflection, reinterpretation and repositioning, with artists Arlo Mountford, Patrick Pound and The Telepathy Project and design practice MaterialByProduct bringing new insights to it through a suite of exhibitions, videos and performative installations.

In our Community Hall we will be hosting 600 events over the four months of *Melbourne Now* offering a daily rotating program of free workshops, talks, catwalks and show'n'tells run by leaders in their fields. And over summer, the NGV will present a range of programs and events, including a Children's Festival, dance program, late-night music events and unique food and beverage offerings.

The exhibition covers 8000 square metres of space, covering much of the two campuses of the National Gallery of Victoria, and moves into the streets of Melbourne with initiatives such as the *Flags for Melbourne* project, *ALLOURWALLS* at Hosier Lane, walking and bike tours, open studios and other programs that will help to connect the wider community with the creative riches that Melbourne has to offer.

*Melbourne Now* is a legacy project for the NGV and will have a lasting impact on our collections, our audiences and our relationship with the arts community of our city.

*Melbourne Now* is on display at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia and NGV International from 22 November 2013 – 23 March 2014. 10am – 5pm. Free entry.



Join the conversation via #melbournenow and download the free *Melbourne Now* App and ebook.  
[ngv.vic.gov.au](http://ngv.vic.gov.au)

Image caption:

**Daniel CROOKS**

born New Zealand 1973, arrived Australia 1994

*An embroidery of voids* 2013 (still)

colour single-channel digital video, sound, looped

Collection of the artist

© Daniel Crooks, courtesy Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne and Sydney

Supported by Julie, Michael and Silvia Kantor