

8 April 2011

First major portrait exhibition from the National Gallery of Australia opens at
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin

AUSTRALIAN PORTRAITS

1880 – 1960

paintings from the National Gallery of Australia collection

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin

9 April – 10 July 2011

Impressive portraits from the National Gallery of Australia – some of them on show for the first time – will be on display from tomorrow at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin.

Bushrangers, flappers and fashion icons all figure in *Australian portraits: 1880–1960*, a major national touring exhibition which opens to the public at MAGNT on April 9 2011.

The exhibition features 54 portraits by 34 leading Australian painters, including Tom Roberts, George W. Lambert, Grace Cossington Smith, Margaret Preston, Arthur Boyd, Sidney Nolan, Russell Drysdale and John Brack.

Australian Portraits: 1880 – 1960 is the first major portrait exhibition mounted by the National Gallery of Australia and will tour to galleries in Victoria, the Northern Territory, New South Wales, Tasmania and regional Queensland after its showing in Brisbane.

“Major Australian portraits were among the first paintings purchased for the national art collection,” said Ron Radford AM, Director of the National Gallery of Australia.

“The portrait paintings included in this exhibition are among the finest of their time. This national touring exhibition is truly national; it includes portraits by artists and of sitters from every state.”

The exhibition includes much-loved paintings from the Gallery’s collection in addition to little-known works and two recently acquired pieces that haven’t been shown in public before.

“MAGNT are delighted to be exhibiting *Australian Portraits* and have taken the opportunity to develop a small exhibition entitled *Territory Portraits*,” said Darlene Lion, Acting Director of MAGNT.

“This exhibition showcases portraits from MAGNT’s permanent collection with particular emphasis on the unique people and character of the Territory. *Territory Portraits* will also be showing at MAGNT from 9 April 2011.”

Australian portraits: 1880–1960 will be complemented by a diverse program of talks and special events at each venue, with a full-colour 160-page catalogue also available for purchase. The exhibition is curated by National Gallery of Australia Head of Australian Art Anna Gray. This exhibition is part of the National Gallery of Australia's extensive program of sharing the national collection with the whole of Australia.

High resolution exhibition images are available for download [here](#).



Tour dates

- Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT, 9 April – 10 July 2011
- Warrnambool Art Gallery, Warrnambool, Vic., 23 July – 4 September 2011
- Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston, Tas., 17 September – 20 November 2011
- Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre, Gymea, NSW, 3 December 2011 – 29 January 2012
- Gladstone Regional Art Gallery, Gladstone, Qld, 11 February – 12 May 2012

Media: for interviews contact Karlie Weinert on 8999 4730

The 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; and Visions of Australia, an Australian Government Program supporting touring exhibitions by providing funding assistance for the development and touring of cultural material across Australia. Its exhibition partner is the National Gallery of Australia Council Exhibitions Fund and media partner is ABC Local Radio.