

HAMILTON GALLERY CELEBRATES 60 YEARS!

Hamilton Gallery reopens with launch of 60th anniversary exhibition, publication and event series.

Hamilton Gallery is excited to announce that it will reopen on Friday, 17 September at 10am and welcome back visitors to celebrate its 60th anniversary with a special exhibition, publication and event series.

The remarkable project; **HG:60**, celebrates 60 years of Hamilton Gallery, which first opened on 22 October 1961. This project unveils some of the most significant objects from the Gallery's collection through a stunning exhibition, 200+ page publication and series of special events.

Nine scholars from across Australia have examined and researched the Gallery's key collection areas; European Art, Decorative Art, Australian Art, Japanese and Chinese Art to produce this coffee table publication and co-curate the exhibition.

Hamilton Gallery's Artistic Director, Joshua White said, "The exhibition is an absolute menagerie of cultural treasures of local, national and international significance. It was a privilege to work with Australia's most esteemed art historians, scholars and academics to unearth what, in their professional opinion, makes Hamilton Gallery collection distinctive and of international importance."

As varied as it is impressive, the **HG:60** exhibition includes paintings, ceramics, sculptures, glass, porcelain, works on paper and other astounding treasures ranging from the 2200-2000 BCE earthenware '*Jar (guan) Machang Phase*', to recently acquired works such as Rew Hank's masterful linocut titled '*Playing for Keeps*'.

Other highlights of the exhibition include the original scoring book of Aboriginal Cricketers in England from 1868 and a small replica of one of the Pietro Tacca's '*Fountains of the Sea Monsters*', a fountain reclaimed from Kiama, the Grassdale family home of Herbert and May Shaw, whose bequest initiated the gallery.

Collections Coordinator, Ian Brilley said, "This array of objects has never before been displayed together in this manner. It was an amazing experience working with nine other curators, who are leaders in their fields across Australia, on such a strongly contextualised exhibition and publication."

Accompanying this exhibition, the gallery has undertaken the ambitious task of creating a collection publication with the support of the Gordon Darling Foundation, Hamilton Gallery Trust and Southern Grampians Shire Council, titled **HG:60**. This extraordinary coffee table book reveals insights into the gallery's rich history through a selection of objects.

HG:60 celebrations also include a series of special events, restrictions permitting, including;

- Official opening and book launch; scheduled for Fri 22 Oct
- **HG:60** Symposium, 60 Years in 16 Objects; bringing together academics and community members to illuminate objects and stories with short spotlight talks

HG HAMILTON GALLERY

- Spotlight on Conservation; conservator Catherine Nunn will take the audience through the process of conserving one of Hamilton Gallery's treasures, a sixteenth century painting by Italian artist, Bernadino Licinio
- A gala dinner; an unforgettable evening of art, music, fine dining and local wine
- Guided tours of the **HG:60** exhibition led by gallery staff – 18 Sep, 2 and 16 Oct
- Workshops; hands-on and digital creative sessions inspired by **HG:60**.

Education and Engagement Officer, Agostina Hawkins said, "**HG:60** invites visitors to explore the history, culture and traditions of our gallery and our region through artworks and objects which span centuries. We've also developed a new, interactive Kids' Space where families can play and learn together. We're so excited to welcome you in!"

During Victoria's lockdown, the gallery has also expanded the Gallery Shop and installed an all abilities lift for access to the first floor.

The gallery has implemented various COVIDSafe measures in line with Victorian Government guidelines, including limited visitor numbers. The gallery remains free to attend 7 days a week and pre-booking is not required for non-group visits.

For more information on HG:60 and upcoming events, see www.hamiltongallery.org, the Hamilton Gallery Facebook page, or join the mailing list.

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Caption: 'Exhibition shot, HG:60 at the Hamilton Gallery'. See Image Library for additional options.

ADDITIONAL QUOTES:

Joshua White, Artistic Director: "This project marks an important moment in the history of this institution, and I would like to thank all those who have contributed over the past sixty years to the Hamilton Gallery. Their continued generosity has grown the collection to be the significant cultural treasure it is today. This is the community's collection and I invite all to visit, experience and enjoy it."

Amy Knight, Manager Cultural Arts: "This is one of many incredible projects to come from the cultural arts unit and delighted to reopen with such an exciting and important milestone. We thank the community for their patience and understanding in recent months."

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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HAMILTON GALLERY

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FREE ENTRY | OPEN 7 days from 17 Sept 2021 | M-F: 10am-5pm, Sat & Sun: 10am-2pm

HAMILTON GALLERY TRUST



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GALLERY

107 BROWN STREET, HAMILTON, VICTORIA
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