

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed: 10 June 2021



THE SKYWHALES ARE COMING!

Hamilton Gallery to host *Skywhale* and *Skywhalepapa* in 2022

Hamilton Gallery is excited to announce that the skywhales, two monumental sculptures in the form of hot-air balloons by internationally renowned artist Patricia Piccinini, will be visiting the Southern Grampians region in May 2022.

Skywhalepapa, the artist's most ambitious project to date, is a new companion piece for *Skywhale* and together they form a skywhale family. Following their debut together in Canberra, the sculptures will float across the skies of Australia as a National Gallery Touring Event throughout 2021 and 2022.

Commissioned by the National Gallery of Australia, with the support of The Balnaves Foundation, *Skywhalepapa* will fly alongside *Skywhale* on a two-year national tour, and then, possibly to international destinations as a part of the \$1.3 million performative exhibition, *Skywhales: Every heart sings*.

Hamilton Gallery Artistic Director, Joshua White said “I believe that a gallery’s activities should extend far beyond its walls and foster many different types of culture, audiences and artworks. This commission by the National Gallery by Patricia Piccinini is just that. I look forward to gazing upwards and seeing these two amazing and awe-inspiring creations floating across the sky with our wonderful Southern Grampians landscape as the perfect backdrop.

“These large-scale artworks stand more than 30 metres tall and appear to be ‘living’, whilst floating across the Australian landscape, and soon to be our unique landscape. I absolutely cannot wait,” White concluded.

Patricia Piccinini conceives of *Skywhales: Every heart sings* not only as two sculptures, but also as a performance or event.

“I imagine visitors assembling to watch *Skywhalepapa* coming to life,” says Piccinini. “With a single skywhale figure we have a character, but with the two we have a relationship, and a narrative.

“*Skywhalepapa* continued the concepts around nurturing, caring, nature and evolution that began with *Skywhale*. I’m really moved by nature. The idea that all creatures, not just humans, are perfectly evolved for their environment blows my mind,” Piccinini said.

Skywhales: Every heart sings is a National Gallery of Australia Touring Event, supported by Principal Partner The Naomi Milgrom Foundation and Visions of Australia. *Skywhales: Every heart sings* is the third instalment of The Balnaves Contemporary Series and is a Know My Name project.

<Ends>

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Morgan Morgan | Marketing and Communications Officer – Cultural Arts Unit
mmorgan@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au | 0409 096 114

Joshua White | Artistic Director – Hamilton Gallery
jwhite@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au | 0427 953 296

Presented by

NGA National
Gallery of
Australia

Supported by



National Tour Partner

**NAOMI
MILGROM
FOUNDATION**

National Tour Supporter



Caption: Patricia Piccinini, *Skywhalepapa*, 2020 and *Skywhale*, 2013, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, © Patricia Piccinini