

ABSTRACTION TWENTYEIGHTEEN



ABSTRACTION AMPLIFIED

ABSTRACTION TWENTYEIGHTEEN is an initiative showcasing Abstract / Non-Objective art: 1 exhibition; 125 artists; 5 venues.

Each of the Melbourne exhibition spaces has selected work that demonstrates its particular curatorial practice and aesthetic, with artists from around Australia working in a variety of materials and formats. Such diversity reflects the range of contemporary interests in Abstract / Non-Objective art. Practitioners with decades of experience and recent graduates celebrating together its innovative vitality, its freshness and longevity.

In 1968, the National Gallery of Victoria opened its new St Kilda Road home. A major architectural and cultural emblem to highlight the maturity and strength of the nation's burgeoning artistic ambition.

THE FIELD exhibition of contemporary Australian abstraction affirmed our aspirations for an international context. It was a significant choice for the opening of this new cultural institution. The built form of the NGV could be considered 'modernist sombre' while **THE FIELD** itself was 'energetic excess'. Restraint meets exuberance. A magnificent balance.

In 2018, the NGV celebrates 50 years in St Kilda Road with **THE FIELD REVISITED**. More than a restaging of the breakout exhibition; it is a retelling of a great moment in a long story.

ABSTRACTION TWENTYEIGHTEEN is a complementarity to **THE FIELD REVISITED**, and its precursor. The works in our suite of exhibitions reflect on a deeper history than just post/modern moments and sensibilities. They reveal influences and derivations, progressions and grand re-examinations of artistic cul-de-sacs. All manner of aesthetic polemics and political postures are reified and re-contextualised to make and mark works that advance the action beyond novelty of the new.

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