

MEDIA RELEASE

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New exhibition shines a new light on the Prime Minister's Suite

Beyond the Veneer: a fresh look at the Prime Minister's Suite will be launched at 6pm, Thursday 3 April 2014, at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House.

"This unique exhibition gives five selected artists unprecedented access to the iconic Prime Minister's Suite rooms at Old Parliament House, to create new and innovative craft and design works" said the Director of the museum, Ms Daryl Karp. "We want to create bold content that connects with the broadest possible audience, to surprise and delight our visitors."

Beyond the Veneer: a fresh look at the Prime Minister's Suite is an exciting new collaboration between Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre and the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House.

Canberra artists Patsy Hely, Kirstie Rea, Gilbert Riedelbauch, Dianne Firth and USA artist Russell Baldon have each been allocated rooms from the Prime Minister's Suite to inspire an artistic response. The final works include textile installations, ceramics and glass works, ingeniously designed lighting and wood work to bring a new interpretation to the way we consider the past.

"*Beyond the Veneer* is an innovative collaboration between craft, design, and our nation's history and culture," Ms Avi Amesbury, Executive Director of Craft ACT said. "Each artist has approached the brief in a unique way, informed by their own artistic backgrounds. The works deal with themes as diverse as loneliness and public service through to privacy and the art of speechwriting."

"In this rare opportunity, *Beyond the Veneer* invites visitors to view important rooms through the lens of craft and design, and to see the rooms and Old Parliament House in a whole new light." said Ms Karp.

The exhibition will be on display from Thursday 3 April to Sunday 11 May 2014. Open daily 9am – 5pm. For more information, visit www.moadoph.gov.au

Ends

For further information or to arrange an interview or photo opportunity, please contact:

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