

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 17 November 2015

Regional voices use art as a political platform

Edmund Capon AO OBE, distinguished art scholar and former director of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, will tonight launch a new art exhibition that focuses on the role regional communities play in the social and artistic landscape of our nation.

Right Here Now: a powerful regional voice in our democracy will be launched at 6pm tonight (17 November 2015) at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House. The Minister for the Arts, Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield will be part of the official party launching the exhibition.

Right Here Now: a powerful regional voice in our democracy highlights the influence and prominence of rural voices in Australian democratic society, and provides a channel for regional artists to convey their political opinion through creative design.

“The voice of the people inspires what we do here at the museum. Not one voice but many; not passive but active; not ignorant but informed. So, we are delighted to host an exhibition that brings the voice of regional Australia to the fore of our democracy,” said Daryl Karp, Director, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (MoADOPH).

An initiative between Regional Arts Australia and MoADOPH, the exhibition showcases eighteen artists from around the country, paired together in a mentorship project. The artists explore ideals of equality, respect and the unique mix of cultures that make up modern Australia. They explore the connection between regional communities and our political society.

“Here we see renowned regional and remote artists, many of whom have works in the nation’s most significant collections. These artists have mentored other local artists and it has been gratifying to observe how the depth of those mentor relationships has not only enriched this exhibition, but also laid the ground for new professional careers,” said John Oster, Executive Director, Regional Arts Australia.

Some of the artists involved in the exhibition include Brian Robinson and Jimmy Thaiday. Brian is a distinguished artist who recently won the Western Australia Indigenous Art Award. Jimmy has participated in many group exhibitions and prizes including the Telstra Indigenous Art Awards.

Five of the artists involved in the exhibition, including Brian Robinson, Jimmy Thaiday, Donna Fortescue, Rick Ball, Raymond Arnold and Jessie Pangas will be available for interviews at 3pm today.

Right Here Now: a powerful regional voice in our democracy is open until March 2016. See full exhibition catalogue [online here](#).

The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House celebrates the spirit of Australian democracy and the power of your voice within it. www.moadoph.gov.au

Ends

For interview opportunities or for more information on the exhibition or the artists involved in this project please contact:

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