

Politics are curiouser and curiouser in MoAD's 2018 Behind The Lines exhibition

Visitors to MoAD's (Museum of Australian Democracy) ***Behind the Lines: The year's best political cartoons 2018*** exhibition, with the theme Curiouser & Curiouser are invited down a rabbit hole to a topsy-turvy world where nothing is as it seems.

Every year MoAD presents *Behind The Lines*, an exhibition that displays the best political cartoons from the last 12 months. The 2018 exhibition, launched today, brings together the year's unexpected political twists and turns in an *Alice In Wonderland* inspired theme.

"Each week Australia's political cartoonists have captured the goings-on in parliament with humour and wit," MoAD Director, Daryl Karp explained.

"Australia has a long and proud tradition of political satire, and each year it is a celebration of our democracy and our freedom of speech."

"At a time when we've had seven prime ministers in 10 years, and satisfaction in democracy has dropped by more than half since 2007, its reassuring that our political cartoonists haven't lost the ability to make us laugh," Ms Karp continued

Behind The Lines curator, Libby Stewart, said the exhibition contains more than 80 cartoons, representing the work of over 30 cartoonists from a wide variety of printed and online media.

"Visitors will see insightful commentary including work from John Shakespeare, David Rowe, Michael Leunig, Cathy Wilcox and Mark Knight, and for the first time Jason Chatfield, an Australian cartoonist now illustrating for *The New Yorker*.

"We are inviting visitors to step through the looking glass with us to laugh, smirk or grimace at the strange happenings in politics in the last year."

Ms Karp also announced the exhibition's Political Cartoonist of the Year saying, "The *Curiouser and Curiouser* theme is perfectly encapsulated in the work of our Cartoonist of the Year, Matt Golding. Visitors will see his bemused Alice peering into a Wonderland populated by some very familiar political faces.

"Matt has been delighting fans for years with his work for Fairfax publications, where he excels at the 'pocket' cartoon style. He skilfully sums up complex issues within one frame, enabling readers to understand these issues more easily, and to appreciate the humour that he brings to them. This year Matt has focussed on the banking royal commission, by-elections, tax cuts and the shadow of Tony Abbott looming over the government."

Matt Golding said he was delighted his work is included in one of Australia's most popular political cartooning exhibitions and to be chosen as Cartoonist of the Year. "People are drawn to cartoons, they gravitate towards them because of their beautiful simplicity and their power to challenge, to make people think and possibly see the world in a different way" he said.

BEHIND THE LINES
The year's **BEST** political cartoons 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 16 November 2018



Behind the Lines 2018: The year's best political cartoons 2018, opens at MoAD on 16 November 2018 and will run for 12 months. The exhibition will include family-friendly activities, such as dress-ups and games on site.

The exhibition will also tour to other parts of the country in 2019, including:

- Riverside Theatre, Parramatta, New South Wales, 29 Jan–21 Feb 2019
- Old Treasury Building, Melbourne, Victoria, 26 Feb–29 April 2019
- Bunker Cartoon Gallery, Coffs Harbour, New South Wales, 1 May–6 July 2019
- State Library of Queensland, South Brisbane, Queensland, 29 July–2 November 2019

MoAD is open 9am to 5pm daily. For more information visit moadoph.gov.au/btl

About MoAD

The Museum of Australian Democracy celebrates Australia's proud history as a democratic nation and actively promotes the participation of its citizens in determining its future.

MoAD is a museum not just of objects but of ideas. In our iconic heritage building, we tell the story of Australia's journey to becoming one of the world's most vibrant and multicultural democratic nations.

MoAD is a place where stories, conversations and narratives from myriad perspectives can be heard and discussed.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Melissa Holcroft, melissa.holcroft@moadoph.gov.au, (02) 6270 8118 or 0410 712 252

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

Daryl Karp – Director, MoAD

Libby Stewart – exhibition curator, MoAD

Matt Golding – Cartoonist of the Year

IMAGES:

Curiouser and Curiouser, Matt Golding

Hung out to dry, Cathy Wilcox

The Insiders, David Pope

The Muppet Show, Mark Knight

Hanson Flip-Flopping, Peter Broelman

Behind the lines exhibition

BEHIND THE LINES
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