Cuttings—Elizabeth Gower

1 September to 25 November 2018
Free entry | Open daily 10am to 5pm

Melbourne artist **Elizabeth Gower** will be the subject of a major exhibition *Cuttings—Elizabeth Gower* to be presented at **Geelong Gallery** from 1 September to 25 November 2018.
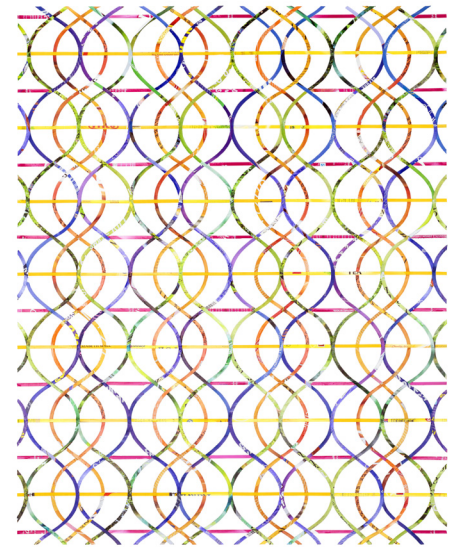
Cuttings—Elizabeth Gower is the artist's first comprehensive survey exhibition since the early 2000s, and brings together significant bodies of works from the last two decades including a major new 21 metre collage which will be premiered at Geelong Gallery (assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body).

Elizabeth Gower emerged in the 1970s as a pioneering feminist artist and her work continues to have an important impact on her peers and younger artists. Gower's ingenious formal manipulations and transformations of re-purposed materials are conditioned by a conceptual rigour that elevates multi-cultural decorative motifs and traditional techniques and processes (such as quiltmaking, mosaic tiling, knitting and embroidery patterns) into a fine art context.

Gower recycles and collages printed remnants of popular culture to create exquisite optical geometrics that explore ideas of consumerism and consumption. Her work typically involves cutting up and intricately collaging—onto drafting film, canvas, board or paper surfaces—collected printed ephemera, packaging material and magazine pages. As we become more urgently cognisant of the degradation of our environment and the social impacts of consumerism and global consumption, Gower's concerns with refuse, redundancy, recycling and new aesthetics gain ever-greater communicative potential and power.

Jason Smith, Director & CEO, Geelong Gallery says 'We are delighted to exhibit the work of Elizabeth Gower, one of Australia's preeminent contemporary artists. The exhibition will be presented at Geelong Gallery concurrently with the Art Gallery of New South Wales' *2018 Archibald Prize* and we expect over 40,000 people will have the opportunity to view Gower's work which represents a major public audience for the artist.'

Lisa Sullivan, Senior Curator, Geelong Gallery says 'It has been over two decades since Geelong Gallery hosted a touring exhibition of Elizabeth's work in 1997, *Chance or Design*, initiated by the then Ian Potter Gallery at the University of Melbourne. This current exhibition brings together an extensive array of works to showcase the artist's enduring concerns and to highlight the broader social and

Elizabeth Gower
Delineations 2017
paper on drafting film
Reproduced courtesy of the artist and Sutton Gallery, Melbourne

Elizabeth Gower
Prismatics 2006-07
paper on canvas
Reproduced courtesy of the artist and Sutton Gallery, Melbourne, and Milani Gallery, Brisbane

environmental issues her works explore which continue to have a great currency today.'

Despite an exhibition history spanning four decades, few comprehensive exhibition catalogues have been published that record the significant bodies of work that Gower has produced. Geelong Gallery's upcoming publication will include key works created since her 2002 publication (*Beyond the everyday: the art of Elizabeth Gower* accompanying a Glen Eira City Gallery exhibition) and will include *Urban artefacts* (2003–05), *Prismatics* (2006-07), *Savings* (2010), *Rotations* (2013-ongoing), *Cycles* (2015), *Delineations* (2017) and the new work *Monochrome compilation* (2018).

About the artist

Elizabeth Gower has been a pioneer of feminist practice throughout a career spanning 40 years.

Elizabeth Gower is represented in the Geelong Gallery collection, and has built a strong and dedicated following at a state and national level. As a senior lecturer (and currently Honorary Senior Fellow) at the University of Melbourne/Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, Dr Elizabeth Gower has been influential to the careers of numerous emerging artists, whilst maintaining a strong and active exhibition profile at major institutions, commercial galleries and artist run initiatives nationally and overseas. Her engagement with the sector has also extended to a number of curatorial projects in Australia and New York.

Gower has been the recipient of numerous awards, prizes, grants and residencies including support from the Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Victoria, and City of Melbourne. She has completed public commissions for a number of high profile buildings including the Melbourne World Congress Centre, Southbank, Melbourne Cricket Ground (Southern Stand), and the Sydney Olympics Superdome. She is represented in the collections of Artbank, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Art Gallery of South Australia, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Art Gallery of Ballarat, Bendigo Art Gallery, City of Port Phillip, Deakin University, Geelong Gallery, Gippsland Art Gallery, Monash University, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Newcastle Art Gallery, Parliament House Canberra, Shepparton Art Museum, Queensland Art Gallery, Queensland University of Technology, University of Melbourne and University of Tasmania.

Visit geelonggallery.org.au for more information

Free entry—

Entry fees apply for the concurrent exhibition, the *2018 Archibald Prize*.

Media contact—
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Exhibition partners

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The creation of new work, Monochrome compilation (2018) was assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.