



Media Release

Media Contact
Miranda Brown
T: 03 9419 0931
E: miranda@mbpublicity.com.au

The Moon

15 June to 1 September 2019
A Geelong Gallery exhibition

Free entry
open daily 10am to 5pm



Georges Méliès
A trip to the moon (Le voyage dans la lune)
(still, detail) 1902
black and white; silent
duration 00:10:19
Australian Centre for the Moving Image,
Melbourne

Damiano Bertoli
Whiteys on the Moon (Sadie and Caballero)
2008
lustre print
Courtesy of the artist and Neon Parc,
Melbourne

20 July 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the first Moon landing. Geelong Gallery exhibition, **The Moon** has been programmed to coincide with this significant milestone, and brings together artistic responses to the celestial body that orbits the Earth.

For centuries artists from many cultures have been inspired by the Moon, the most prominent feature of our night sky. **The Moon** includes historical works created when the Moon could only be viewed from afar, works from the era of the 1960s space race, and more contemporary responses informed by the imagery and scientific knowledge acquired through space exploration as well as diverse references from popular culture.

Just as the Moon itself can be viewed from multiple vantage points from the Earth, works in the exhibition will be located throughout the galleries. Links with literature, film, music and science will also be explored, highlighting the Moon's capacity to engender creativity and inquiry.

The Moon will invite a new engagement with, and provide new perspectives on, this enigmatic celestial body that we all see and are influenced by.

The Moon will incorporate works from a number of national and state institutions including loans from the National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Heide Museum of Modern Art, various regional galleries, private collections and Geelong Gallery's own collection.

Geelong Gallery Senior Curator **Lisa Sullivan**, is the curator of the exhibition. Ms Sullivan says 'This rich subject is explored through works spanning centuries — from a 16th century woodcut by Albrecht Dürer to artistic responses made in this anniversary year — and across five key exhibition themes.'

Evocations and imaginings brings together historical works of the late 19th and early 20th century in which the Moon casts an atmospheric glow across a landscape or is used as a symbolic device, by artists such as ST Gill, Arthur Streeton, Arthur Loureiro, Godfrey Miller and Charles Blackman. The 1902 film *A trip to the Moon* by George Méliès — a very early and influential work in the history of cinema — speculates on space travel and Moon inhabitants.

Extending on this, **Journeys to the Moon** sees 1960s NASA photographs in the form of stills and American artist Michael Light's moving image collage displayed alongside works by Susan Norrie, Rosemary Laing, Mikala Dwyer, Steven Rendall, Catherine Rogers and Damiano Bertoli variously inspired by space travel, concepts of populating the Moon, and the lunar surface. South African artist William Kentridge's animated film, *Journey to the Moon* 2003, provides an evocative contemporary response to the Méliès film of 1902.

The light of the Moon encompasses two key installations: Katie Paterson's *Lightbulb to simulate Moonlight* and Louise Weaver's *Moonlight becomes you*. Paterson's single bulb emits rays approximating the light of a Full Moon, while Weaver presents an entirely new iteration of an earlier work to create an immersive environment in which nocturnal creatures live by Moonlight.

Phases of the Moon references the constantly changing 'shape' of the Moon as it moves through the lunar cycle and travels across our night sky. Works by Janet Dawson, Lesley Dumbrell, Marion Borgelt, Felicity Spear and Luke Parker, among others, illustrate this theme. The concept of 'phases' or 'time' is extended to the ancient Dreaming stories of our Indigenous people which tell of the creation of the Moon.

And **Paper Moon** brings together a diverse array of works across drawing, printmaking and photography, reflecting the enduring interest of artists in this subject.



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Drop-in tours Sunday
between 2–4pm



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Key works included in the exhibition

Georges Méliès, *A Trip to the Moon (Le voyage dans la Lune)* 1902, black and white; silent, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne

ST Gill, *Night 1870*, watercolour over drawing in black black pencil, highlighted with gum Arabic, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

Godfrey Miller, *Nude and the Moon* 1961–64, oil, pen and ink on canvas, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

William Kentridge, *Journey to the moon* 2003, 35mm and 16mm film transferred to video; sound, Courtesy of the artist

NASA, *United States flag on Moon surface with lunar surface television camera in background* 1969, type C photograph, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Michael Light, *Drift: 29 days, 18 hours, 2 minutes* 1999, black and white and colour; silent, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne

Mikala Dwyer, *The Moon* 2008, hessian, felt, modelling clay, glitter, cardboard, found object, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Katie Paterson, *Light bulb to simulate Moonlight* 2008, 289 light bulbs with halogen filament, frosted coloured shell, 28W, 4500K, log book; edition 6/9, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

Louise Weaver, *Moonlight becomes you*, 2002–03, various components, Private collection, Courtesy of the artist and Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney

Paul Nabalumo Namarinjmak, *Dirdbim — Moon dreaming* 2004–05, natural ochres on bark, Art Gallery of Ballarat, Victoria

Janet Dawson, *Foxy night 3 rising Moon*, 1978, synthetic polymer paint on canvas, Geelong Gallery

Hiroshige, *Yodo River*, from the series *Famous places of Kyoto* 1834, woodblock print; ink and colour on paper, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

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Presenting partner



Exhibition partners



McGrath

Indemnification for this exhibition is provided by the Victoria Government

Learn program partners



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Media Contact

Penny Whitehead – Deputy Director

T 03 52921958

penny@geelonggallery.org.au



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