

Wednesday 6 January 2010

RON MUECK

22 January - 18 April 2010

On 22 January the National Gallery of Victoria will present a major exhibition of the work of internationally renowned sculptor Ron Mueck.

Known for his extraordinarily life-like creations, this exhibition will feature twelve sculptures by Mueck including four new works.

This will be the largest and most comprehensive Mueck exhibition ever to be held in Australia.

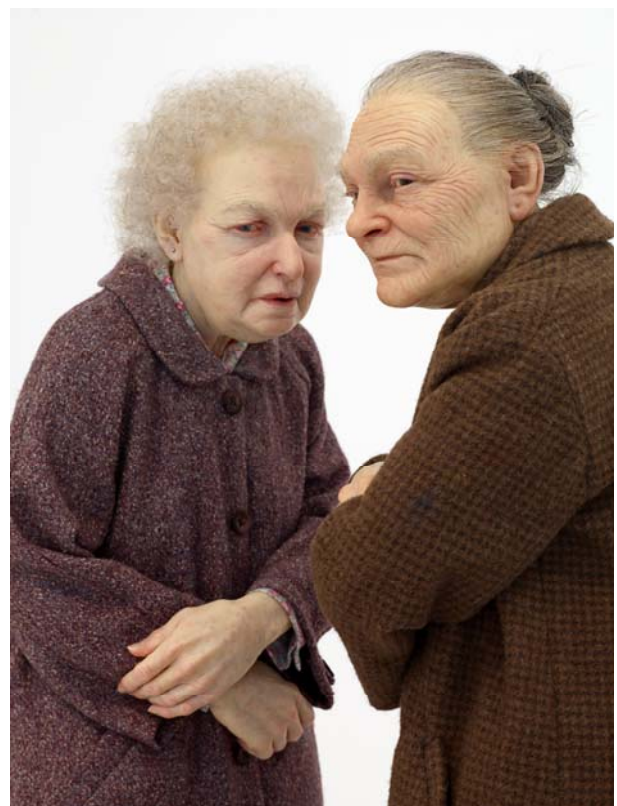
Frances Lindsay, NGV Deputy Director, said: "Since his dramatic entry onto the international art stage, Mueck has continued to astound audiences with his realistic, figurative sculptures and now occupies a unique and important place in the field of international contemporary art."

David Hurlston, Curator Australian Art, said Ron Mueck's poignant sculptures illustrate timeless human conditions from birth to demise.

"Mueck's sculptures range from puckish portrayals of childhood innocence to acute observations of stages of life; from birth to adolescence, middle and old age, and even death. Many are solitary figures, psychological portraits of emotional intensity and of isolation," said Mr Hurlston.

The exhibition will draw from Australian and international collections, highlights include: *Mask II* (2002), *Man in a boat* (2002), *Old woman in bed* (2002), *Wild man* (2005), *Two women* (2005), *In bed* (2005), and through the generosity of a private collector from the United States, the iconic work *Dead Dad* (1996/97).

In addition to these there will be a number of new works created specifically for this exhibition which will be unveiled for the first time in Melbourne.



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In his early career Melbourne-born Mueck worked as a puppet maker, however since 1997 he has been entirely devoted to making sculpture. In 1996, he was 'discovered' by British advertising guru Charles Saatchi, who included Mueck's *Dead Dad* (1996/97) as part of the history making *Sensation* exhibition the following year.

Mueck went on to be represented at the 2001 Venice Biennale, capturing worldwide attention for his 4.9 metre sculpture, *Boy* (1999). Since then, he has become one of the most significant figures in the contemporary art world.

Mueck's work is currently held in the collections of Art Gallery of NSW, National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, McClelland Gallery and Queensland Art Gallery.

Ron Mueck will be on display at NGV International on St Kilda Road from 22 January until 18 April 2010.

Admission fees apply: Adult \$15.00 / Concession \$12.00 / Children \$7.50 / Member \$7.50.

Ron Mueck is a National Gallery of Victoria touring exhibition and will travel to Queensland Art Gallery from 8 May until 8 August 2010 and to Christchurch Art Gallery from 30 September until 23 January 2011.

Principal Sponsor: Mercer

Support Sponsors: Maddocks, Sanpellegrino, Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, The Age, JCDecaux

For further information visit ngv.vic.gov.au

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Image caption: Ron Mueck, Born Australia 1958 - *Two women* 2005, polyester resin, fibreglass, silicone, aluminium wire, steel, wool, cotton, nylon, synthetic hair, plastic, metal, ed. 1/1 82.6 x 48.7 x 41.5 cm (variable), National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne Purchased, Victorian Foundation for Living Australian Artists, 2007 © Ron Mueck courtesy Anthony d'Offay, London

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