



MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

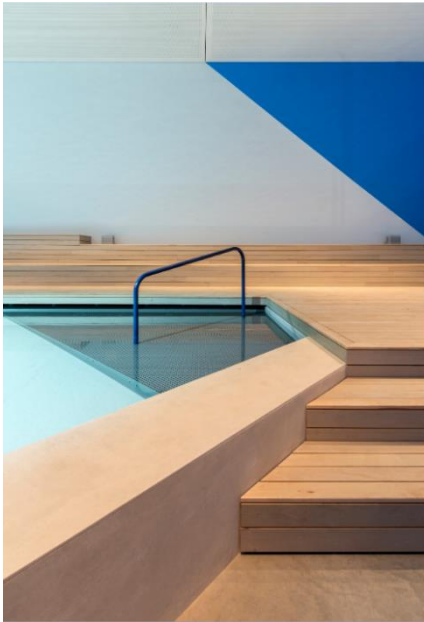
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The Pool

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia | 18 August 2017 – 18 February 2018 | Free entry



An 11m long pool will be transported to the National Gallery of Victoria for *The Pool*, an exhibition that celebrates and explores one of Australia's greatest cultural symbols.

A multi-sensory installation of water, light, scent and sound, *The Pool* is an interactive space, complete with wooden decking and pool lounge chairs, that reveals the connection between landscape, culture and architecture through a singular architectural form.

Tony Ellwood, Director, NGV, said, 'Whether natural or manmade, inland or coastal, pools are undeniably linked to the Australian lifestyle and our national psyche. We encourage visitors to dangle their feet in the water or relax poolside as they reflect on the idea of the pool as a place of cultural exchange, socialising, competition and reminiscence.'

The exhibition holds its Australian premiere following a successful showing at the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale where it received more than 100,000 visitors. It was presented by the Australian Institute of Architects and curated by Aileen Sage Architects (Isabelle Toland and Amelia Holliday) with Michelle Tabet.

Martin Foley, Minister for Creative Industries, said, 'In an NGV first, this exhibition comes straight from the Venice Architecture Biennale. It explores the quintessential role the pool plays in Australian life, and also the role architecture and design play in shaping our identity and experiences. This exhibition wowed the crowds in Venice and is yet another must-see for visitors to dive in to at Australia's most popular gallery.'

The installation also includes a series of eight 'lanes' that present audio excerpts from eight prominent Australian figures who share their personal stories to further reveal the relationship between the pool, its architecture and Australian cultural identity: Olympic gold medal winning swimmers Ian Thorpe and Shane Gould; environmentalist and *2007 Australian of the Year* Tim Flannery; fashion designers Romance Was Born; writer of best-selling book *The Slap* Christos Tsiolkas; winner of the *2012 Miles Franklin Prize* Anna Funder; Indigenous art curator Hetti Perkins and Australian rock musician Paul Kelly.

The Pool is on display at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia from 18 August 2017 to 18 February 2018. Entry is free.

The Pool was originally commissioned for the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale by the Australian Institute of Architects and its re-presentation at NGV Australia is achieved with their support.

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Image caption: *The Pool: Architecture, Culture and Identity*, exhibition by Aileen Sage Architects (Isabelle Toland and Amelia Holliday) with Michelle Tabet, commissioned for the Australian Pavilion by the Australian Institute of Architects for the Venice Biennale of Architecture 2016. Photo: Brett Boardman.