

Media Release



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The Ian Potter Cultural Trust and ACMI announce

Gabriella Hirst awarded \$100,000

2020 Ian Potter Moving Image Commission

Australia's most significant long-term commissioning program of new contemporary moving image art

The \$100,000 Ian Potter Moving Image Commission (IPMIC) for new moving image works by Australian artists has been awarded to video and performance artist Gabriella Hirst.

Gabriella Hirst has been awarded the prize from a field of impressive candidates vying for the prestigious visual art commission – an initiative of The Ian Potter Cultural Trust (IPCT) and the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI).

The commission will make possible a new work, *Darling Darling* (working title), which will have its world premiere at ACMI in 2020. The proposed work parallels the precise and elaborate care taken to preserve colonial paintings of the Australian landscape with the real-world preservation of the Murray Darling Basin.

Darling Darling follows on from the success of previous Ian Potter Moving Image Commission, *The Calling*, by Angelica Mesiti who will represent Australia at this year's Venice Biennale, and Daniel Crooks' *Phantom Ride*. Both artists have gone on to enjoy critical and popular success upon premiering at ACMI.

In announcing Gabriella Hirst as the winning recipient, IPMIC Panel Chair and ACMI Director & CEO, Katrina Sedgwick, praised her innovative work in the rapidly expanding field of moving image art.

"We are thrilled to award Gabriella the 2020 Ian Potter Moving Image Commission. Her practice and her proposed work stood out amongst an incredibly competitive field of applicants. ACMI is proud, as the national museum of film, television, videogames and digital art and culture, to be partnering with The Ian Potter Cultural Trust to present the world premiere of Hirst's commission *Darling Darling* as one of the first exhibitions following our reopening in 2020."

Today Gabriella Hirst spoke about her excitement in receiving the commission: "Thank you to ACMI and The Ian Potter Cultural Trust for selecting my proposal for the IPMIC, I'm beyond thrilled. It's a huge opportunity for me to develop a work at this scale and with such incredible support. I'm very grateful for the confidence in my practice as a young Australian moving image artist. I'm looking forward to developing the project and beginning production alongside the team at ACMI."

Lady Potter AC, Trustee of The Ian Potter Cultural Trust, commended Gabriella Hirst on being awarded the 2020 Ian Potter Moving Image Commission. "The Ian Potter Cultural Trust is delighted to be supporting an exciting and dedicated young artist. Gabriella Hirst's work promises to be a timely exploration of the connection between the romanticism of the Western art tradition, and the realities of the Australian landscape."

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2020 Ian Potter Moving Image Commission, *Darling Darling* (working title) will premiere at the newly reopened and revitalised ACMI in 2020.

About Gabriella Hirst

Gabriella Hirst is a video and performance artist based in Sydney and London. She recently completed an MFA in Fine Art Media at the Slade School of Fine Art (London), prior to which she studied at IUAV, the College of Fine Art, and the National Art School. She is a recipient of the 2013 Martin Bequest Travelling Scholarship, the 2016 John Crampton Postgraduate Award, and was recently shortlisted for the 2018 Ivan Jurtiz Prize at Kings College, selected by Turner Prize winning artist Gillian Wearing. She has undertaken residencies at The Cite Internationale des Arts (Paris), Cove Park (Scotland) and the ZKU (Berlin). Hirst has exhibited widely, recently as part of Bloomberg New Contemporaries 17 in London and Newcastle, the Courtauld East Wing Biennale at Somerset House, Video Contemporary at Carriageworks and, NEW16 at the Australian Centre of Contemporary Art.

About the Ian Potter Moving Image Commission (IPMIC)

The IPMIC is Australia's most significant long-term commissioning program of new contemporary moving image art by Australian artists. A joint initiative of The Ian Potter Cultural Trust and ACMI, this award represents a commitment to this exciting art form. The IPMIC is designed to enable a mid-career artist to produce an ambitious new moving image work that demonstrates a major development or shift in their practice. Through the commission partners, the award provides two levels of support to the successful artist: \$100,000 from The Ian Potter Cultural Trust, as well as highly specialised curatorial, production and presentation expertise provided by ACMI. More at: movingimagecommission.org.au

About the Ian Potter Moving Image Commission (IPMIC) Judging Panel

Chaired by ACMI Director and CEO Katrina Sedgwick, the judging panel includes experts drawn from across the Australian arts sector, including Craig Connelly, CEO of The Ian Potter Cultural Trust and The Ian Potter Foundation, Annette Blonski, freelance script editor and script consultant, Rebecca Coates, curator, writer and lecturer, Callum Morton, Professor of Fine Art at MADA (Monash Art Design and Architecture) and Emily Sexton, Artistic Director of Arts House.

About the Ian Potter Cultural Trust (IPCT)

The Ian Potter Cultural Trust was established in 1993 by The Ian Potter Foundation to encourage and support diversity and excellence among emerging Australian artists. The Trust's funding is governed by a commitment to excellence: it seeks to support individuals who are passionate about their work and have the potential to be outstanding in their field. The Trust's main funding stream offers grants to assist early career artists of exceptional talent to undertake professional development, usually overseas. To date more than 1,600 artists have received grants totalling over \$8 million. The Ian Potter Arts Commissions represent the Trust's flagship award, complementing the main ongoing program of grants for individual artists. The Ian Potter Moving Image Commissions are the Trust's third major commissions program, following Music (composition) and Sculpture.

About ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image)

ACMI is Australia's national museum of film, videogames, digital culture and art – situated at the very heart of Melbourne, in Federation Square. The world's most visited moving image or film museum, ACMI exists to celebrate, support and explore the past, present and future of the moving image through a vibrant calendar of exhibitions, screenings, installations and commissions, festivals, workshops, as well as public and education programs, in Australia and beyond. This year ACMI will be undergoing a major redevelopment, closing its doors in mid 2019 and reopening mid 2020. More at acmi.net.au

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