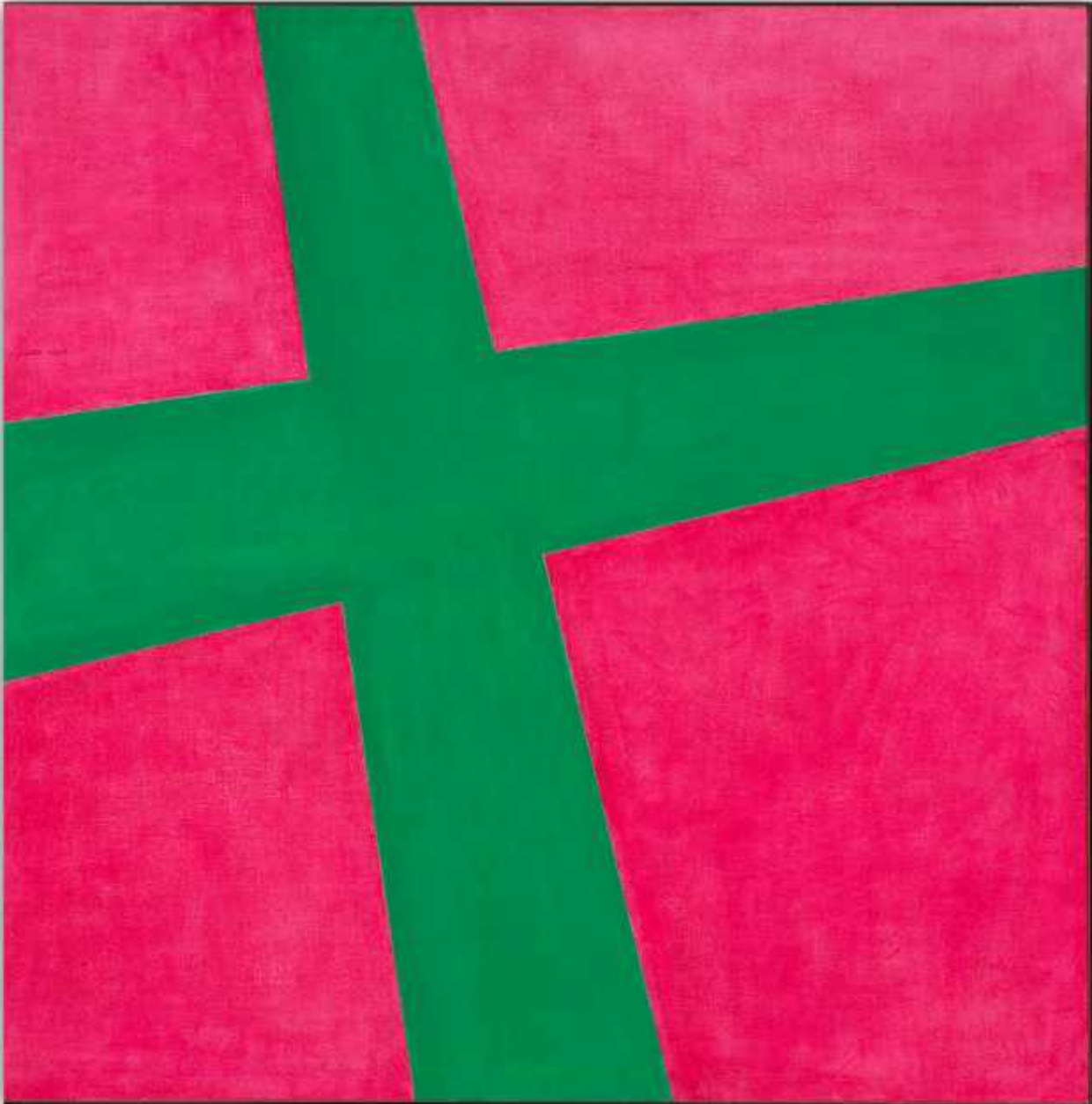


**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Call of the Avant-Garde: Constructivism and Australian Art**

20 April 2017

**In the centenary year of the Russian revolution, Heide Museum of Modern Art presents the first exhibition to examine the influence of the modernist art movement Constructivism on Australian art.**



**Call of the Avant-Garde: Constructivism and Australian Art**

**5 July – 8 October 2017**

**Central Galleries, Heide II and the Kerry Gardner & Andrew Myer Project Gallery**

**Curators: Sue Cramer and Lesley Harding**

For more than one hundred years, artists have drawn inspiration from the early twentieth-century avant-garde movement Constructivism. Originating in Russia in the years immediately before and after the 1917 revolution, then spreading to places throughout the world, Constructivism's abstract forms, utopian ideals and vision of art's vital role in building a new society have continued to act as a beacon for artists of successive generations in many countries.

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Call of the Avant-Garde: Constructivism and Australian Art

This extensive survey (over 200 works across three galleries) explores how Australian visual artists have responded to this ground breaking modernist movement, and reveals its enduring call upon their imaginations from the 1930s to the present day. The excitement of new formal discoveries, the integration of ideas across the various art forms, and the strong role taken by women artists who, unusually for the time, were considered equal to the men, are just some of the inspiring features of Russian Constructivism that continue to resonate today.

“We have a fascinating story to tell across generations of Australian artists, who still find the innovative and optimistic period of Russian Constructivism incredibly inspiring,” curator Sue Cramer said.

The exhibition is the third in a series that surveys Australia's contribution to key modernist art movements with previous exhibitions Cubism and Australian Art (2009–10) and Less is More: Minimal and Post Minimal Art in Australia (2012).

In keeping with the versatility of Constructivist artists whose work typically ranged across mediums, the display will include painting and sculpture, video and photography, textiles, the graphic arts as well as stage and costume design by visual artists. Works by Australian artists including Ralph Balson, Inge King, Robert Owen, Rose Nolan and Zoe Croggon, will be shown alongside those by British Constructivists Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth, and key proponents from the original Russian movement like Alexander Rodchenko, Alexandra Exter and El Lissitzky.



- Images:
1. Gunter Christmann, *Red/Green Cross* 1966, oil on composition board, 122 x 122 cm, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Purchased 1992 © Estate of Gunter Christmann and Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
  2. George Johnson, *Construction With Brown Triangle* 1986, acrylic on canvas, 186 x 140 cm, Courtesy of the artist and Charles Nodrum Gallery, © the artist
  3. Rose Nolan, *A Red Constructed Work* 1992–93, synthetic polymer paint, oil paint, cardboard, Perspex, tin lid and nylon cord 84 x 63 x 32 cm, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Gift of Rose Nolan 2014, © the artist

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Call of the Avant-Garde: Constructivism and Australian Art

#### Artists

##### AUSTRALIAN

JUSTIN ANDREWS  
RALPH BALSON  
GORDON BENNETT  
CECIL BOSTOCK  
STEPHEN BRAM  
EUGENE CARCHESIO  
DAVID CHESWORTH & SONIA LEBER  
GUNTER CHRISTMANN  
DAHL COLLINGS  
OLIVE COTTON  
PETER CRIPPS  
MAX DUPAIN  
ZOE CROGGON  
SARAH CROWEST  
GRACE CROWLEY  
RICHARD DUNN  
EMILY FLOYD  
MARK GALEA  
DIENA GEORGETTI  
MELINDA HARPER  
FRANK HINDER  
MARGEL HINDER  
ROBERT HUNTER  
RAAFAT ISHAK  
GEORGE JOHNSON  
INGE KING  
ADRIAN LAWLOR  
GERALD LEWERS  
MARGO LEWERS  
GABRIELLA MANGANO & SILVANA MANGANO  
NEVIL MATTHEWS  
TOM NICHOLSON  
JOHN NIXON  
ROSE NOLAN  
DAVID NOONAN

STANISLAW OSTOJA-KOTKOWSKI  
ROBERT OWEN  
LENTON PARR  
KERRIE POLINESS  
ROBERT ROONEY  
GERALD RYAN  
NIKE SAVVAS  
ALEX SELENITSCH  
CALEB SHEA  
WOLFGANG SIEVERS  
SALLY SMART  
ESTHER STEWART  
DAVID THOMAS  
MEREDITH TURNBULL  
DICK WATKINS  
JUSTENE WILLIAMS  
GARY WILSON

##### INTERNATIONAL

ERICH BUCHHOLZ (GERMAN)  
ANTHONY CARO (BRITISH)  
ALEXANDRA EXTER (RUSSIAN)  
BARBARA HEPWORTH (BRITISH)  
WASSILY KANDINSKY (RUSSIAN)  
VALENTINA KULAGINA (RUSSIAN)  
JULIO LE PARC (ARGENTINAN)  
EL LISSITZKY (RUSSIAN)  
KASIMIR MALEVICH (RUSSIAN)  
LÁSZLÓ MOHOLY-NAGY (HUNGARIAN)  
BEN NICHOLSON (BRITISH)  
VICTOR PASMORE (BRITISH)  
ALEXANDER RODCHENKO (RUSSIAN)  
VLADIMIR STENBERG (RUSSIAN)  
SOPHIE TAEUBER-ARP (SWISS)

Curators Sue Cramer and Lesley Harding are available for interview.

High-res images are available upon request.

**- END MEDIA RELEASE-**

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Museum Opening Hours  
Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5pm. Closed Mondays.