

MEDIA RELEASE

HEIDE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
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Museum of Modern Art

Heide

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The National Gallery of Australia's touring exhibition, *Diane Arbus: American Portraits*, opens 21 March 2018 at Heide Museum of Modern Art.

The photographs of Diane Arbus (1923-71) are among the most widely recognised in the history of photography. Her images stand as powerful allegories of post-war America, and once seen are rarely forgotten. Works such as *Identical twins, Roselle, N.J., 1967* and *Child with toy hand grenade, in Central Park, New York City* have been described as two of 'the most celebrated images in the history of the medium'.

Featuring 35 of Arbus's most iconic and confrontational images from 1961-71, this exhibition examines the last decade of Arbus's life, the period in which her style is in full flight. Her work has polarised viewers who question whether she exploited or empowered her subjects, who were often drawn from society's margins.

'The National Gallery of Australia is privileged to hold such an extraordinary collection of work by a photographer of Arbus's significance,' said Anne O'Hehir, curator. 'This collection covers Arbus's best-known pictures, and also includes images which are rarely seen. This exhibition is a testament to the power of Arbus's extraordinary vision.'

Arbus's photographs are exhibited alongside a selection of works by other leading American photographers whose work influenced Arbus, was shown alongside hers in the '60s, or has been influenced by her. These include famous images by Lisette Model, Walker Evans and Weegee, her contemporaries William Klein, Garry Winogrand, Lee Friedlander and Milton Rogovin as well as a slightly younger generation, work by Mary Ellen Mark and William Eggleston.

Heide Director & CEO Dr Natasha Cica said:

'Heide is delighted to present this exhibition of the renowned photographer Diane Arbus. Her uncompromising view challenged existing photography conventions in a surprising and enchanting way.'

Diane Arbus: American Portraits

21 March-17 June 2017

Heide Museum of Modern Art

Media centre: <https://nga.gov.au/aboutus/mediacentre/dianearbus/default.cfm>

Diane Arbus: American Portraits is a National Gallery of Australia Exhibition.

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NGA
National Gallery of Australia



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Heide Museum of Modern Art
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heide.com.au

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