

**MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Connecting Thread* 19 July to 22 August 2019**

Artists conceptually using thread to explore ideas about personal history, culture and memory.

**Artists:** Robert Brain, Sarah Contos, Sylvia Griffin, Elizabeth Pulie, Mona Ryder

**Opening Event:** Saturday 27 July 2-4pm

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery is pleased to announce the exhibition *Connecting Thread*. The conceptually and aesthetically rich selection of works reveals each artist pursuing personal interests such as transitions and rituals in life and the unravelling and reconnecting of history and personal narratives.

As Lizzy Marshall notes in the catalogue essay to the exhibition:

*A structured thread is formed from ideas. Moreover, artworks within Connected Thread are not inert twine nor objects from centuries of tradition. These artworks are a weaving of the conceptual and the material. Each artwork is an invisible performative action by the artist interweaving the political, cultural, autobiographical into an intractable understanding of the contemporary present through the audience experience.*

*Connecting Thread* includes works by the following artists:

**Robert Brain:** now living in the Blue Mountains Brain is a tapestry artist who commenced work as an Africa-based anthropologist. His subject matter combines autobiographical narratives with elements from more celebrated art icons.

**Sarah Contos:** as a Sydney and Perth based artist Contos uses theatrical devices in framing her assemblages and installations. She is represented by Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Paddington and STATION Gallery, Melbourne

**Sylvia Griffin:** is a multi-discipline artist and writer living in Sydney. Her work explores contemporary art and trauma and notions of memory and collective grief from a personal perspective. <https://sylviagriffin.com.au/>

**Elizabeth Pulie:** A recent shift to the use of textiles and fibres, hessian, jute, cotton or linen, and craft techniques such as embroidery in combination with painting represents her interest in craft applications and a sense of the feminine as a potentially critical concern. Pulie is represented by Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney

**Mona Ryder:** Queensland born Ryder explores themes of domesticity, gender politics and memory through her multi-media practice.

## SHORT STATEMENT

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(45 words)

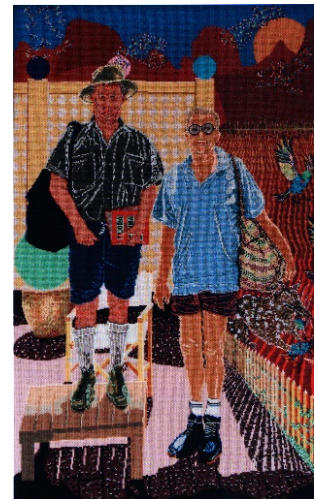


Sarah Contos *Before Transcending Moonlight (Gloria #1)*, 2017

screen print on canvas and metallic fabric and aluminum.

Courtesy the Artist and Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

Robert Brain *Intrepid Explorers, Neal and Robert, setting out for the Adelaide Hills*, 1985, tapestry



High Resolution images are available.

The **Grace Cossington Smith Gallery** is a not-for-profit gallery, run by Abbotsleigh, serving the public through free admission and a changing exhibition program.

The Gallery is open Monday to Friday from 10 am-5 pm and Saturday 9am – 4pm.

Enter via Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway Wahroonga.

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