

Opening 21 May 2011

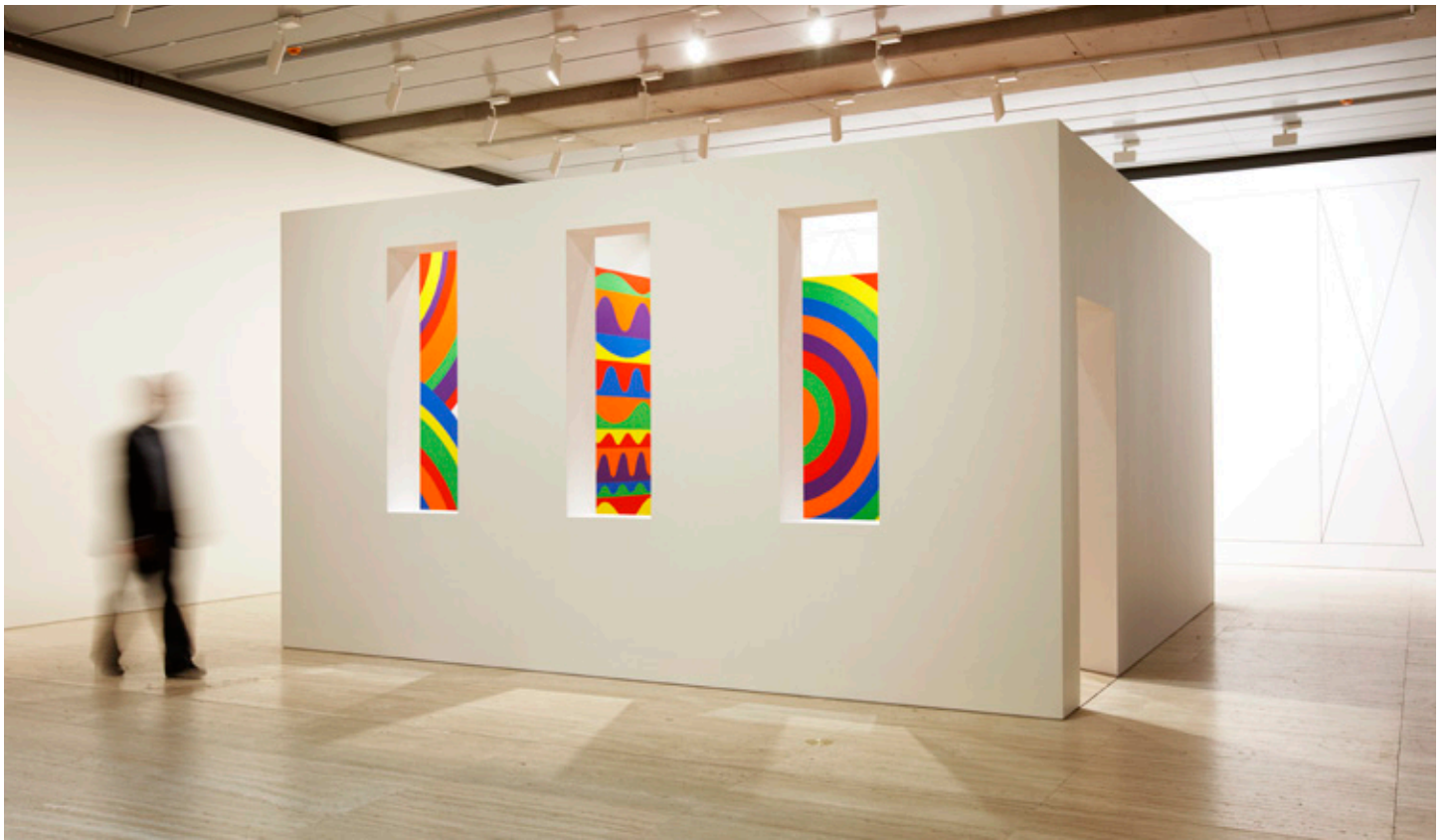
Media release

ART
GALLERY
NSW

NEW
CONTEMPORARY
GALLERIES
JOHN KALDOR
FAMILY COLLECTION
ART GALLERY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES

‘For an institution such as ours, with the aspiration to develop and maintain a distinguished and impressive representation of contemporary art, it would be hard to overestimate the significance of the gift of the John Kaldor Family Collection, a milestone that happens once in a century. It will be a transforming experience for the Art Gallery of New South Wales.’

Edmund Capon
Director, Art Gallery of New South Wales



The Art Gallery of New South Wales unveils a new floor for contemporary art featuring the John Kaldor Family Gallery. With the inclusion of the Kaldor Collection, the Gallery now holds Australia's most comprehensive representation of contemporary art from the 1960s to the present day.

Open weekend Sat 21 & Sun 22 May

The Gallery will hold an open weekend to celebrate the launch of the new contemporary galleries. Events include keynote talks by leading international and Australian artists, floor talks by Edmund Capon and John Kaldor, and an extensive performance and film program.

Media information

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In 2008, John Kaldor and his family announced their intention to give the John Kaldor Family Collection to the state of NSW. This was the catalyst for the government to provide funds to the Gallery to build a state-of-the-art offsite storage facility to allow space within the Gallery to display the collection.

The Kaldor Family gift, valued in excess of \$35 million, is the largest single art donation to an Australian public gallery and includes over 200 works of art.

This extraordinary gift, together with funds generously donated by the Belgiorno-Nettis family, enabled the re-development of the Gallery's old storage area and existing display space to create an entire new floor of 3300 square metres of exhibition space. The floor comprises the John Kaldor Family Gallery, a suite of contemporary and modern galleries, a dedicated photography gallery, and a study room for the Gallery's works on paper collection.

There are a number of commissioned and newly installed site-specific works of art including five vast wall drawings by **Sol LeWitt**, a major wall work by **Richard Long** and a new installation by **Ugo Rondinone** on the large stairwell that descends into the John Kaldor Family Gallery.



John Kaldor Family Collection

'I have shared my love of contemporary art with the Australian public for more than 40 years through Kaldor Public Art Projects.

My collection, on the other hand, has remained private. Donating it to the Art Gallery of New South Wales is a natural extension of my aim to share art with the public. It is also my largest-ever art project.'

John Kaldor

For the last 50 years John Kaldor has been Australia's most passionate collector of international contemporary art.

Kaldor has developed lasting relationships with some of the most important artists of our time and his collection consists of in-depth representations of artists including **Robert Rauschenberg, Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Sol LeWitt, Richard Long, Jeff Koons, Bill Viola and Ugo Rondinone.**

In 1969 John Kaldor established Kaldor Public Art Projects. Working directly with artists and their studios, there have been 23 projects to date. The projects have greatly enriched Australia's public experience in the art of our time. The most ambitious and wonderfully realised first project was Christo and Jeanne-Claude's *Wrapped Coast – One Million Square Feet, Little Bay, Sydney, Australia 1968–69* which covered 2.5 kilometres of Sydney's coastline at Little Bay. The most recent project was John Baldessari's *Your name in lights*, a highlight of the 2011 Sydney Festival.

While the Kaldor Projects have been very public, Kaldor's collection has only been exhibited twice before and has until now filled the Kaldor family home, offices and a large storage facility. From May 2011 a selection of works from the collection will always be on public display at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

The first display from the Kaldor Collection features a selection of key works while in adjacent galleries major works from the Gallery's collection will be on show. In 2012 the entire floor will integrate both collections: this will enable, for the first time in Australia, the telling of a comprehensive art history from the 1960s to now.

Ugo Rondinone **siebterjulizweitausendundnull** 2000
© Ugo Rondinone

Jeff Koons **White terrier** 1991 © Jeff Koons



'I did not set out to form a collection; to collect was a way to participate in the excitement, the creative energy of contemporary art.'

John Kaldor

John Kaldor Family Collection book

The Kaldor Collection display is accompanied by an extensively illustrated 344-page book. Texts include an interview with John Kaldor tracing the history of his collecting and featuring personal anecdotes about the artists, and introductory essays by Klaus Biesenbach, Museum of Modern Art, New York; David Jaffe, National Gallery, London; Anthony Bond, Art Gallery of New South Wales, and renowned author David Malouf, a frequent guest at John Kaldor's house.

Available from the Gallery Shop and selected bookstores nationally

Robert Rauschenberg **Yellow visor glut** 1989 © Robert Rauschenberg/VAGA. Licensed by Viscopy, Sydney

Bill Viola **Observance** 2002 © Bill Viola

Key artists in the Kaldor Collection

Robert Rauschenberg, a seminal figure in American art and influential in most of the leading arts movements of the post-war era, is represented in the collection with nine works including his 1962 combine *Dylaby*.

Sol LeWitt is one of the artists Kaldor most admired and his LeWitt collection is one of the most comprehensive of any in the world. A key figure in conceptual art, LeWitt played an important role in defining the art of his time. The Gallery has commissioned the Sol LeWitt Studio to install five site-specific wall drawings and paintings, including recreating an entire painted room from John Kaldor's house.

One of the cornerstones of the Kaldor collection is minimalism, a movement fundamental to understanding the art of our time. Impressive works by **Donald Judd**, **Carl Andre** and **Frank Stella** are included in the collection.

There is a strong performative element in the Kaldor Collection including works by **Gilbert & George**, **Nam June Paik**, **Richard Long**, **Francis Alÿs** and **Michael Landy**.

The holding of German photography is exceptional with key works by the international superstars of photography today – **Andreas Gursky** and **Thomas Struth** – as well their influential teachers **Bernd and Hilla Becher**. The new generation of German photography is represented through a large collection of still and moving images by **Thomas Demand**.

Video art is also represented in depth, from pioneering **Nam June Paik** to his studio assistant and now world-renowned video artist, **Bill Viola**. A younger generation of predominately Australian video artists are included with works by **TV Moore**, **Shaun Gladwell**, **Daniel von Sturmer** and **Daniel Crooks**.



The Gallery's collections

'This much expanded and luminous floor represents not only a huge and surprising leap forward for the Gallery but also demonstrates our commitment to the art and inspiration of our times.'

Edmund Capon

The contemporary galleries present a selection of major works from the Gallery's collection.

Jannis Kounellis's arte povera masterpiece *Untitled* 1984 has been newly installed by the artist in a room with sculptures and drawings by **Mike Parr** and a major 1970s woodblock and mixed media painting by **Anselm Kiefer**. Nearby is **Doris Salcedo's** *Atrabiliaros* 1992–97 with its poignantly commemorative niches filled with the shoes of Columbia's disappeared people.

Recently donated by Andrew Cameron are **Rosemary Laing's** photographs of the Australian desert, including a dramatic image of burning car wrecks. Enigmatic images of Berlin's Jewish Museum are veiled in poured substances and chemicals in **Janet Laurence's** glass panel work *In stance of memory* 2005.

Callum Morton's large-scale sculpture of a motorway with a road rage sound track is installed near a new **Patricia Piccinini** sculpture of a hirsute young girl, and **Del Kathryn Barton's** erotic natural history painting, *Come of things* 2010.

Found objects and text feature in works including **Tony Cragg's** *Spyrogyra* 1992 comprised of luminescent sand-blasted bottles, **Hany Armanious's** shelves of found and cast Middle Eastern objects and **Simryn Gill's** photographs of book pages grafted onto the undergrowth of lushly verdant tropical gardens in Singapore and Malaysia. **Ricky Swallow's** finely detailed carved wood seafood-laden table, *Killing time* 2003–04, is also displayed.

The Contemporary Project Space program resumes with an exhibition by Sydney video artist **Sam Smith**. Tracing an uncanny series of events that take place on a film set and in an artist's studio, this new work – produced during a residency in Berlin – considers how we engage with screen-based media and how cinema manipulates our sense of linear time.

The new floor includes a dedicated photography gallery. The first exhibition in the photography gallery is **Tracey Moffatt's** series *Up in the sky* 1997.

The Gallery's modern international collection is also displayed on this level. From the birth of modernism at the beginning of the 20th century to the present, this gallery includes major works by **Braque, Kirchner, Beckmann, Picasso, Morandi, Auerbach** and **Giacometti** among others.

Ernst Kirschner **Three bathers** 1913
Art Gallery of New South Wales
Foundation purchase 1984

Ricky Swallow **Killing time** 2003–04
Art Gallery of New South Wales
Rudy Komon Memorial Fund and the Contemporary
Collection Benefactors' 2004
© Ricky Swallow, courtesy Darren Knight Gallery



Contemporary public programs and education

Audiences of all ages and levels of experience will be able to learn about contemporary art and the Gallery's collection through a wide variety of public programs and new education initiatives.

Programs include:

Kids programs explore the galleries with a Childrens Trail which encourages looking and interpreting, drawing and writing activities exploring key themes and ideas in the works of art. They can also learn about the collection on an interactive character tour specially created for the contemporary galleries by children's author Geoffrey McSkimming.

Art After Hours highlights the collection with exhibition and celebrity talks. A special film series based on the culture of the 1960s and 70s – the world of Sol LeWitt, Robert Rauschenberg, Christo and Gilbert & George – begins end of June.

Lecture series introducing the various movements in art and culture over the past five decades. *Art since the 60s: why art looks the way it does* offers a preview and exploration of artworks and key themes and movements in the contemporary collection, including the John Kaldor Family Collection. From 23 March

For schools There will be a series of resources and programs for Visual Arts teachers and students that focus on contemporary art, including new collection tours and master classes.

- **Art Forums** is a new initiative that brings together students and a panel of experts for a lively debate, which is filmed for the benefit of schools around Australia. In the future, regional schools can participate via live video conferencing.

- **Art After Class:** students not able to come to the Gallery during school hours can learn about the collection with a Gallery educator after class.

- **A new education kit** will be available in print and online, including essays, images and critical questions. Resources for electronic whiteboards and laptops in the classroom will also be available within the next year. A special preview for both K–6 and 7–12 teachers will be held in June with further professional development days throughout the year.

Ugo Rondinone **clockwork for oracles** 2008 (detail)
installation, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston
© Ugo Rondinone

Thomas Struth **Chicago Board of Trade I, Chicago**
1990 © Thomas Struth



The Kaldor Collection brings not only a new breadth and personality to the Gallery's collections, but also new and exciting opportunities ... for exploring and illustrating the art of our times.

Edmund Capon

Facts

The new floor opening on 21 May 2011 comprises:

- John Kaldor Family Gallery
- Contemporary galleries
- Modern gallery
- Photography gallery
- Works on paper study room

The total public display area at the Art Gallery of New South Wales is 11 000 square metres. From May 2011, 3300 square metres of that space will be dedicated to the display of contemporary and modern art including the 1910 square metres of the John Kaldor Family Gallery.

Architect Andrew Andersons from PTW Architects designed the new floor within the existing building extensions of 1972 and 1988 which he also designed.

1000 tonnes of sandstone was cut away and removed to expand the floor's display space.

A new travertine floor has been laid in the John Kaldor Family Gallery sourced from the same quarry as the floors on the other levels of the gallery.

Construction took almost 12 months; a seamless building program with limited interruption to the public. Jason de Bruin Projects managed the project.

Interior architect Koichi Tadaka worked with the Gallery in the presentation of the works of art.

The first works of art acquired by the Art Gallery of New South Wales were by contemporary artists and the strength of our 19th-century Australian collection results from the purchase of works by young artists such as Arthur Streeton, Tom Roberts and Charles Conder.

In 1979 the first contemporary art curator was appointed. This recognised that contemporary art had become a specialist field and emphasised the importance of supporting living artists.

In 1984 the Gallery received the Mervyn Horton Bequest which enabled the collection of international contemporary art, building the substantial collection we have today.



CONTEMPORARY ART WITH UBS

AGNSW contemporary galleries are supported by the Belgiorno-Nettis family
AGNSW Contemporary Projects are supported by Andrew Cameron

John Kaldor Family Gallery with Richard Long's
Southern gravity 2011 © Richard Long
photo: Eric Sierins

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Art Gallery of New South Wales
Art Gallery Road, Sydney NSW 2000
Hours 10am–5pm every day
(closed Christmas Day)
Art After Hours until 9pm Wednesdays
Admission free