MEDIA RELEASE
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For immediate release

**Obsessed: Compelled to make exhibition explores the mind of a maker**

What compels a maker to create? Why this technique or material? Why that concept? How does the mind of a maker work?

Australian Design Centre presents its major touring exhibition for 2018, **Obsessed: Compelled to make.** These are the stories of **14 Australian artists** – stories that are at the same time unique and yet contain the frustrations and highpoints of a life of creative work that all of us can relate to, whether we are a professional artist, designer, craftsperson or hobbyist.

Gabriella Bisetto | Lorraine Connelly-Northey | Honor Freeman, | Jon Goulder |
Kath Inglis | Laura McCusker | Elliot Rich and James B Young (Elbrowrkshp) |
Kate Rohde | Oliver Smith | Vipoo Srivilasa | Tjunkaya Tapaya |
Louise Weaver | Liz Williamson

**Obsessed: Compelled to make** explores the preoccupations that drive the creative process, moving beyond the finished work, to tell the hidden stories of making, uncovering the artists’ inspirations, day-to-day studio experiences, hours of expertise, and the joys and frustrations of obsession.
These makers have been chosen from across the spectrum of making – textiles, ceramics, furniture, metalwork, jewellery, conceptual art, glass blowing and sculptural weaving. Alongside the exhibition that will tour throughout Australia, the project is accompanied by a series of films and a full-length catalogue.

“Obsessed: Compelled to make showcases the awe-inspiring creativity and innovation of the maker and at the same time focuses on the fundamental human need to make.” Lisa Cahill, Australian Design Centre

“This exhibition explores the act of making through the framework of obsession – how it consumes us, carrying us along in its wake, colouring every aspect of our lives. With professional artists, it is their obsessions, and all the associated angst, failures, breakthroughs and milestones, that feed the kind of productivity that could not be achieved in any other way.” Penny Craswell, Australian Design Centre

**Obsessed: Compelled to make**

8 February – 24 March 2018

Explore the exhibition website [here](https://objectauscentre.createsend.com/t/ViewEmail/r/D6C604FA00B7CB0C2540EF23F30FEDED/C67FD2F38AC4859C/?tx=0& previewAll=1&print=1)

Preview the first of the *Obsessed: Compelled to make* films [here](https://objectauscentre.createsend.com/t/ViewEmail/r/D6C604FA00B7CB0C2540EF23F30FEDED/C67FD2F38AC4859C/?tx=0&previewAll=1&print=1) (password ADC)

**Opening night event**

**Thursday 8 February 6 - 8pm** with The Hon. Don Harwin Minister for the Arts NSW.  **RSVP [here](https://objectauscentre.createsend.com/t/ViewEmail/r/D6C604FA00B7CB0C2540EF23F30FEDED/C67FD2F38AC4859C/?tx=0& previewAll=1&print=1)**

**Australian Design Centre**

101-115 William Street,
Darlinghurst, Sydney NSW 2010

Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 4pm and by appointment

**For interviews, images or information please contact:**

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“Being lost in the rhythms of making is like the in between
spaces of long distance travel. It gives the mind space to
dreamthink and for new ideas to percolate.”
Honor Freeman, Adelaide

“I am weaving animals to be stitched to my self-portrait,
like they are pouring out of me. That’s how my weaving
ideas come, flowing from my hands and body.”
Tjunkaya Tapaya (Tjanpi Desert Weavers), Ernabella

ADC on Tour

Obsessed: Compelled to make was researched and
developed under a Visions of Australia research grant
and is ADC’s major national touring exhibition for 2018–
2021 with the tour also supported by the Federal
Government’s Visions of Australia program.

Full-length catalogue available from Object Shop and
supported by the Gordon Darling Foundation.

Exhibition Tour Venues and dates
Australian Design Centre, Sydney 1 February to 28 March
2018
Cairns Regional Gallery, QLD 15 April to 17 June 2018
Artspace Mackay, QLD 22 February to 12 May 2019
Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, NSW 7 June to 4 August
2019
Glasshouse Port Macquarie, NSW 27 September to 1
December 2019
Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, NSW 7 December to 19
January 2019
Tamworth Regional Gallery, NSW 1 February to 16 March
2020
Lismore Regional Gallery, NSW 27 March to 29 May 2020
JamFactory, SA 25 September to 22 November 2020
An artist’s studio is an amazing place, a laboratory where anything can happen. I think a silversmith’s workshop is the best version of that studio context, as it functions as an alchemical frame that enables a wide range of making processes to be enacted, and for the artist to transform materials in exciting ways.” Oliver Smith, Sydney

About Australian Design Centre
Established in 1964, Australian Design Centre (ADC) is one of Australia’s most innovative arts organisations.

ADC is a not-for-profit organisation that creates opportunities for people to engage with design, craft and creativity through dynamic and high-quality touring exhibitions, publishing, digital and educational activities.

ADC’s mission is to ignite creativity through:

Exhibitions – Showcasing the best making and design by Australian creators.

Touring – Bringing the power of making and design to new audiences across Australia.
Learning – Inspiring Australians to use design to transform their future.

ADC On Tour

**Obsessed: Compelled to make** is an ADC On Tour initiative that celebrates and showcases some of Australia's best practitioners through a national touring exhibition, this publication and digital resources.

Supported by:

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Australian Design Centre is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments, the New South Wales Government through Create NSW, the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and the City of Sydney. Australian Design Centre is a member of Australian Craft and Design Centres (ACDC) network and the Sydney Culture Network.

**Image credits:**

Oliver Smith, working in studio, 2017. Photo Angus Lee Forbes.

Australian Design Centre
101 - 115 William St
Darlinghurst NSW 2010

Gallery and Object Shop: Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 4pm
02 9361 7999
Office: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm
02 9361 4555

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