



**Arcadia: sound of the sea**  
**A National Portrait Gallery exhibition**  
The Temporary Exhibitions Gallery

**Friday 2 October - Sunday 15 November**

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*Arcadia: sound of the sea*, is a critically-acclaimed exhibition from the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. The exhibition showcases photographs by John Witzig, co-founder of *Tracks* magazine and founder of *SeaNotes*; juxtaposed with massive ink drawings by Nicholas Harding and lyrical, colour-saturated film footage from Albert Falzon's glorious *Morning of the Earth*.

*Arcadia* is expressive of the free-spirited, revolutionary character of a group of young Australian surfers in the age of conscription to Vietnam. Underpinned by a Romantic conception of the restorative force of the sea, it reflects Witzig's publications' prescient treatment of Australian politics, religion, architecture, environmental conservation, and alternatives to conformist, competitive ways of living in a burgeoning capitalist country. Witzig's photographs have been re-printed to huge scale for the exhibition. Harding's intricate drawings are a natural fit with the rich texture of the photographs and share their vigorous, yet gentle, sensibility.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue comprising reproductions of photographs and drawings from the exhibition, new essays by exhibition curator Dr Sarah Engledow, and reprinted pieces from *Tracks* of 1970-1972 and *SeaNotes* of 1977-1978.

**NATIONAL  
PORTRAIT  
GALLERY  
EXHIBITION**



This exhibition is supported by the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program, an Australian Government program aiming to improve access to the national collections for all Australians.

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**John Witzig**

*Nigel Coates and Murray Smith, Smiths Beach WA* 1972

pigment print

141.2 x 204.8cm

Collection of the artist