



Art Deco

A National Gallery of Australia Exhibition
The Temporary Exhibitions Gallery

Friday 31 May – Sunday 25 August 2019

From around the 1920s, Australian artists responded to the international movement towards modernism and Art Deco. Shaking off the austerity of World War I they created images of an abundant nation filled with strong, youthful figures, capturing the vitalism of a nation reborn. Technological advancements and urbanisation influenced the emergence of Art Deco: a new aesthetic in art, architecture, design and fashion.

Comprised entirely of works selected from the NGA collection, this exhibition provides superb examples of the diverse expressions of Art Deco.

Napier Waller

Christian Waller with Baldur, Undine and Siren at Fairy Hills 1932, oil and tempera on canvas mounted on composition board

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Purchased 1984



With its bold, simplified shapes and emphasis on geometry and line, Art Deco provided the right aesthetic for the times. Buildings lost their decorative embellishments, fashion became less structured and corseted, and women were enjoying greater freedoms, such as the right to vote and to travel unchaperoned. The image of the stylish independent woman became popular in portraiture and graphic design for posters and advertisements. The art also encapsulated the excitement for many people around the potential to travel across continents and internationally.

The exhibition will be complemented by an engaging schedule of activities and events. For details visit the Gallery website in 2019.

NGA
National Gallery of Australia



Australian Government
National Collecting Institutions
Touring & Outreach Program

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.

Margaret Preston
Flapper 1925, oil on canvas

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Purchased with the assistance of the Cooma-Monaro Snowy River Fund 1988
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