

## Document 4

**From:** s 47F  
**To:** [Nick Mitzevich](mailto:nick.mitzevich@nga.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Derogatory portraits of Gina Rinehart in your gallery  
**Date:** Wednesday, 10 April 2024 9:40:03 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dr Nick Mitzevich  
CEO and Director  
National Gallery of Australia  
PO Box 1150  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
[nick.mitzevich@nga.gov.au](mailto:nick.mitzevich@nga.gov.au)

Dear Dr Mitzevich,

I hope you're well.

I write as a concerned Australian and taxpayer who holds great respect for the contributions of individuals to our country's success. I also wish to retain respect for the National Gallery.

When I visited the National Gallery recently, I was extremely disappointed to see highly derogatory portraits of Gina Rinehart hanging on your walls.

I cannot help but express my discomfort with the way your Gallery portrays Australia's most successful businessperson, who is a great contributor to our country.

As you know, Mrs Rinehart is a patriotic Australian and has made significant contributions to our nation's economy and prosperity. She has invested billions in this country and has created jobs and opportunities for tens of thousands of people.

You may not be aware, but she is also Australia's largest private taxpayer paying over \$2.4 billion in taxes in the last financial year alone: <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/the-companies-that-pay-the-most-tax-ranked-20231109-p5eioq#>

Billions more if you count the previous years!

Given that the National Gallery of Australia is a public institution, funded mostly by taxpayer dollars, it seems completely wrong and unfair to acknowledge individuals who have made significant financial contributions to our country in this derogatory and inaccurate way.

When was the last time your Gallery displayed a positive artwork depicting Mrs Rinehart or her contributions and achievements?

I'm sure you agree that it is crucial to ensure that our public institutions, including the National Gallery, uphold the principles of fairness, respect, and balance in their representation of individuals who have contributed to our nation.

I respectfully urge you to take down these artworks.

As a taxpayer and concerned Australian, I look forward to your response and to seeing positive changes made in the representation of great Australians in your Gallery.


Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

s 47F

s 47F

## Document 5

**From:** [Nick Mitzevich](#)  
**To:** [Ryan Stokes](#)  
**Cc:**   
**Subject:** Draft response for Gina Rinehart  
**Date:** Wednesday, 17 April 2024 4:40:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Dear Ryan,

Please find below a draft response for Gina Rinehart, perhaps we could discuss tomorrow morning?

Kind regards,

Nick

\*\*\*\*\*

DRAFT

Dear Mrs Rinehart,

It was very pleasing to hear that you have attended, and enjoyed, annual Gala events at the National Gallery of Australia in the past. Our annual Gala fundraiser is essential to assisting us deliver an ambitious program of exhibitions and activities.

Thank you for your correspondence relating to paintings in Vincent Namatjira's exhibition, *Australia in Colour*. The exhibition was curated by the Art Gallery of South Australia and is currently on display at the National Gallery until 21 July 2024, having first been launched at the Art Gallery of South Australia from 20 October 2023 until 21 January 2024.

I am not sure if you have seen the exhibition in person, however I wanted to give you some further context. One of the portraits you referenced is part of a 21-panel painting, of 20 famous subjects with the Vincent's own self-portrait, all painted with a similar rawness reflecting the artist's intention to convey that everyone in Australia is equal.

Of the work, the artist states:

*"Australia in Colour* is a portrait of my experiences and influences. I've painted people of significance who have had an influence on me, whether directly or indirectly, whether for good or for bad. It's also a portrait of the way I see Australia. People who have shaped this country for better or worse, in small or large ways. Some of the figures I've painted are, of course, not Australian, but their mark on this country's history is deeply felt. Others are more personal and have been drawn into my world through their impact and influence on me, like the Black American painter Henry Taylor and the rock 'n' roll renegades Chuck Berry and Jimi Hendrix. Among the people I've painted in this series are role models, heroes, originators, custodians, leaders – there's serious wealth, power and status here too. With the arrangement of the portraits and the use of first names and nicknames I'm

trying to say that in my eyes everyone is equal. It doesn't matter whether you're the queen of England or an old Gurindji man fighting for his land; whether you're a mining magnate, sportsperson, politician, musician, whatever – we are all equal here.” Vincent Namatjira 2023.

The other is from a series called *Australia in black and white*, of 16 drawings of important and famous Australians. Again, Namatjira has drawn people who have had an influence on his life.

Vincent Namatjira is well-known Australian artist, represented in the national collection and most Australian State collections. In 2020, he won the most prestigious art prize in Australia, the Archibald Prize. In 2020 he was awarded an OAM in honour to his contribution to Indigenous art. In 2015 one of his works was included in the *Indigenous Australia: Enduring Civilisation* exhibition at the British Museum, and the British Museum acquired a self-portrait of Vincent with Queen Elizabeth for their collection so his exhibition is warranted.

s 47F [REDACTED] His style is certainly his own and he approaches a broad range of subjects with equanimity and humour.

The National Gallery's remit is to be a reference point for art and art history. Since 1973, when the National Gallery acquired Jackson Pollocks' *Blue poles*, there has been a dynamic discussion on the artistic merits of works in the national collection, and/or on display at the Gallery. We present works of art to the Australian public to inspire people to explore, experience and learn about art. Sometimes these works may be unpopular or challenging.

s 47F [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] that the joy and fulfilment the national collection brings, not only to visitors to Canberra but to people from across Australia and internationally where our exhibitions and works travel, is immeasurable.

s 47F [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I want to assure you as a Commonwealth agency, we uphold the principles of the Commonwealth of Australia and the ethics of the public service.

As I mentioned earlier, the intention of the artist is to share portraits of people who have influenced his life, s 47F [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Vincent's portraits are raw, depicting Australian culture that reflects his experiences.

Kind regards,

Nick

**DR NICK MITZEVICH**

Director

National Gallery of Australia

P +61 2 6240 6590

M s 22(1)(a)(ii)

W [nga.gov.au](http://nga.gov.au)

Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country

Parkes Place East, Parkes ACT 2600, Australia

GPO Box 1150, Kamberri/Canberra ACT 2601, Australia



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## Document 16

**From:** [Nick Mitzevich](#)  
**To:** s 47F  
**Subject:** RE: Derogatory portraits of Gina Rinehart in your gallery  
**Date:** Thursday, 11 April 2024 5:02:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Vincent Namatjira - 21 portraits sm.jpg](#)  
[Australian in black and white.pdf](#)

---

Dear s 47F

Thank you for your correspondence relating to paintings in Vincent Namatjira's exhibition, *Australia in Colour*, currently on display at the National Gallery of Australia. The exhibition was launched at the Art Gallery of South Australia from 20 October 2023 until 21 January 2024, then commenced at the National Gallery from 2 March and continues until 21 July 2024.

One of the portraits you referenced of Mrs Rinehart is part of a 21-panel painting, of 20 famous subjects with the artist's self-portrait (Namatjira), all painted with a similar rawness reflecting the artist's intention to convey that everyone in Australia is equal.

Of the work, the artist states:

*"Australia in Colour is a portrait of my experiences and influences. I've painted people of significance who have had an influence on me, whether directly or indirectly, whether for good or for bad. It's also a portrait of the way I see Australia. People who have shaped this country for better or worse, in small or large ways. Some of the figures I've painted are, of course, not Australian, but their mark on this country's history is deeply felt. Others are more personal and have been drawn into my world through their impact and influence on me, like the Black American painter Henry Taylor and the rock 'n' roll renegades Chuck Berry and Jimi Hendrix. Among the people I've painted in this series are role models, heroes, originators, custodians, leaders – there's serious wealth, power and status here too. With the arrangement of the portraits and the use of first names and nicknames I'm trying to say that in my eyes everyone is equal. It doesn't matter whether you're the queen of England or an old Gurindji man fighting for his land; whether you're a mining magnate, sportsperson, politician, musician, whatever – we are all equal here."* Vincent Namatjira 2023.

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Thank you for contributing to the dialogue.

Kind regards,

Nick

---

**From:** s 47F  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 9:40 AM  
**To:** Nick Mitzevich <Nick.Mitzevich@nga.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Derogatory portraits of Gina Rinehart in your gallery

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I respectfully urge you to take down these artworks.

As a taxpayer and concerned Australian, I look forward to your response and to seeing positive changes made in the representation of great Australians in your Gallery.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

**s 47F**

**s 47F**



Document 24

**From:** s 47F  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 April 2024 2:31 PM  
**To:** Ryan Stokes; Nick Mitzevich  
**Subject:** Correspondence from Mrs Gina Rinehart AO

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

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Dear Ryan and Dr Mitzevich,

Please see below correspondence from Mrs Rinehart.

Kind regards,

s 47F

---

Dear Ryan and Dr Mitzevich,

I've had the pleasure of attending annual functions for the National Art Gallery several times, done fantastically, very enjoyable, even uplifting.

To have a National Art Gallery that presents the best our country has to offer, makes us proud of our nation and inspires people (including with outstanding artworks from other countries) is, in my view, a very worthy purpose, s 47F

To be direct, the paintings a concerned friend sent me which I wrote to Ryan about (and he's suggested I include writing to you) s 47F

s 47F

In my view, and I believe that of many, many good Australians, our National Gallery should plan differently, and

s 47F

Sincerely,  
Gina Rinehart

[https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hancockprospecting.com.au%2Fimages%2Fhplemailfooter63.jpg&data=05%7C02%7CNick.Mitzevich%40nga.gov.au%7Cd4bf84d562fd4847acf108dc5d04d810%7C44255b2929a64599bad0ec6a2e07b591%7C0%7C0%7C638487522592597304%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Iik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5ynJOR6DaOADUZoCw%2FSwuzqSWHWyE2OWxAc08pXPLZ8%3D&reserved=0]

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**From:** Nick Mitzevich  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 May 2024 2:17 PM  
**To:** s 47F  
**Subject:** FW: Correspondence from Mrs Gina Rinehart AO

Dear s 47F

I am writing to advise that today the National Gallery has received media questions from the Sydney Morning Herald and the AFR (accompanied by FOI requests) regarding correspondence from Mrs Rinehart and other people regarding the Vincent Namatjira Australia in Colour exhibition.

The National Gallery adheres to Freedom of Information legislation and will process the requests in accordance with the FOI Act.

Today the National Gallery issued the following statement:  
“The National Gallery welcomes the public having a dialogue on our collection and displays. Since 1973, when the National Gallery acquired Jackson Pollocks’ Blue poles, there has been a dynamic discussion on the artistic merits of works in the national collection, and/or on display at the Gallery. We present works of art to the Australian public to inspire people to explore, experience and learn about art. “

I trust you will bring this to the attention of Mrs Rinehart.

Kind regards,

Nick

DR NICK MITZEVICH  
Director  
National Gallery of Australia

P +61 2 6240 6590  
M s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
W nga.gov.au

Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country  
Parkes Place East, Parkes ACT 2600, Australia GPO Box 1150, Kamberri/Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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-----Original Message-----

From: Nick Mitzevich  
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 5:29 PM  
To: s 47F s 47F  
Subject: RE: Correspondence from Mrs Gina Rinehart AO

Dear Mrs Rinehart,

It was very pleasing to hear that you have attended, and enjoyed, annual Gala events at the National Gallery of Australia in the past. Our annual Gala fundraiser is essential to assisting us deliver an ambitious program of exhibitions and activities.

Thank you for your correspondence relating to paintings in Vincent Namatjira’s exhibition, Australia in Colour. The exhibition was curated by the Art Gallery of South Australia and is currently on display at the National Gallery until 21 July 2024, having first been launched at the Art Gallery of South Australia from 20 October 2023 until 21 January 2024.

I am not sure if you have seen the exhibition in person, however I wanted to give you some further context. One of the portraits you referenced is part of a 21-panel painting, of 20 famous subjects with the Vincent's own self-portrait, all painted with a similar rawness reflecting the artist's intention to convey that everyone in Australia is equal.

Of the work, the artist states:

"Australia in Colour is a portrait of my experiences and influences. I've painted people of significance who have had an influence on me, whether directly or indirectly, whether for good or for bad. It's also a portrait of the way I see Australia. People who have shaped this country for better or worse, in small or large ways. Some of the figures I've painted are, of course, not Australian, but their mark on this country's history is deeply felt. Others are more personal and have been drawn into my world through their impact and influence on me, like the Black American painter Henry Taylor and the rock 'n' roll renegades Chuck Berry and Jimi Hendrix. Among the people I've painted in this series are role models, heroes, originators, custodians, leaders – there's serious wealth, power and status here too. With the arrangement of the portraits and the use of first names and nicknames I'm trying to say that in my eyes everyone is equal. It doesn't matter whether you're the queen of England or an old Gurindji man fighting for his land; whether you're a mining magnate, sportsperson, politician, musician, whatever – we are all equal here." Vincent Namatjira 2023.

The other is from a series called Australia in black and white, of 16 drawings of important and famous Australians. Again, Namatjira has drawn people who have had an influence on his life.

Vincent Namatjira is a well-known Australian artist, represented in the national collection and most Australian State collections. In 2020, he won the most prestigious art prize in Australia, the Archibald Prize, and that year he was awarded an OAM in honour of his contribution to Indigenous visual arts. In 2015 one of his works was included in the Indigenous Australia: Enduring Civilisation exhibition at the British Museum, and the British Museum acquired a self-portrait of Vincent with Queen Elizabeth for their collection. It is clear his paintings are well-regarded, so this exhibition is warranted.

s 47F [REDACTED] style is certainly his own and he approaches a broad range of subjects with equanimity and humour.

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s 47F [REDACTED] that the joy and fulfilment the national collection brings, not only to visitors to Canberra but to people from across Australia and internationally where our exhibitions and works travel, is immeasurable.

s 47F [REDACTED] I want to assure you as a Commonwealth agency, we uphold the principles of the Commonwealth of Australia and the ethics of the public service.

As I mentioned earlier, the intention of the artist is to share portraits of people who have influenced his life, s 47F [REDACTED]

Vincent's portraits are raw, depicting Australian culture that reflect his experiences.

When you are next in Canberra I hope you might visit the National Gallery so I can give you a tour of the Gallery's collections and facilities.

Kind regards,

Nick

DR NICK MITZEVICH  
Director  
National Gallery of Australia

P +61 2 6240 6590

M s 22(1)(a)(ii) [REDACTED]

W nga.gov.au

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From: s 47F s 47F  
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 2:31 PM  
To: Ryan Stokes s 47F s 47F; Nick Mitzevich <Nick.Mitzevich@nga.gov.au>  
Subject: Correspondence from Mrs Gina Rinehart AO

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Dear Ryan and Dr Mitzevich,

Please see below correspondence from Mrs Rinehart.

Kind regards,  
s 47F

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Dear Ryan and Dr Mitzevich,

I've had the pleasure of attending annual functions for the National Art Gallery several times, done fantastically, very enjoyable, even uplifting.

To have a National Art Gallery that presents the best our country has to offer, makes us proud of our nation and inspires people (including with outstanding artworks from other countries) is, in my view, a very worthy purpose. s 47F

To be direct, the paintings a concerned friend sent me which I wrote to Ryan about (and he's suggested I include writing to you) s 47F

**S 47F**

In my view, and I believe that of many, many good Australians, our National Gallery should plan differently, and s 47F

Sincerely,  
Gina Rinehart

[https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hancockprospecting.com.au%2Fimages%2Fhplemailfooter63.jpg&data=05%7C02%7CNick.Mitzevich%40nga.gov.au%7Cd4bf84d562fd4847acf108dc5d04d810%7C44255b2929a64599bad0ec6a2e07b591%7C0%7C0%7C638487522592597304%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Iik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5ynJOR6DaOADUZoCw%2FSwuzqSWHWyE2OWxAc08pXPLZ8%3D&reserved=0]

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## Document 26

**From:** Nick Mitzevich  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 April 2024 5:30 PM  
**To:** Ryan Stokes  
**Subject:** FW: Correspondence from Mrs Gina Rinehart AO

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Nick Mitzevich  
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 5:29 PM  
To: s 47F  
Subject: RE: Correspondence from Mrs Gina Rinehart AO

Dear Mrs Rinehart,

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M s 22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]  
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Gina Rinehart

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## Document 28

**From:** Nick Mitzevich  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 April 2024 5:29 PM  
**To:** s 47F  
**Subject:** RE: Correspondence from Mrs Gina Rinehart AO

Dear Mrs Rinehart,

It was very pleasing to hear that you have attended, and enjoyed, annual Gala events at the National Gallery of Australia in the past. Our annual Gala fundraiser is essential to assisting us deliver an ambitious program of exhibitions and activities.

Thank you for your correspondence relating to paintings in Vincent Namatjira's exhibition, Australia in Colour. The exhibition was curated by the Art Gallery of South Australia and is currently on display at the National Gallery until 21 July 2024, having first been launched at the Art Gallery of South Australia from 20 October 2023 until 21 January 2024.

I am not sure if you have seen the exhibition in person, however I wanted to give you some further context. One of the portraits you referenced is part of a 21-panel painting, of 20 famous subjects with the Vincent's own self-portrait, all painted with a similar rawness reflecting the artist's intention to convey that everyone in Australia is equal.

Of the work, the artist states:

"Australia in Colour is a portrait of my experiences and influences. I've painted people of significance who have had an influence on me, whether directly or indirectly, whether for good or for bad. It's also a portrait of the way I see Australia. People who have shaped this country for better or worse, in small or large ways. Some of the figures I've painted are, of course, not Australian, but their mark on this country's history is deeply felt. Others are more personal and have been drawn into my world through their impact and influence on me, like the Black American painter Henry Taylor and the rock 'n' roll renegades Chuck Berry and Jimi Hendrix. Among the people I've painted in this series are role models, heroes, originators, custodians, leaders – there's serious wealth, power and status here too. With the arrangement of the portraits and the use of first names and nicknames I'm trying to say that in my eyes everyone is equal. It doesn't matter whether you're the queen of England or an old Gurindji man fighting for his land; whether you're a mining magnate, sportsperson, politician, musician, whatever – we are all equal here." Vincent Namatjira 2023.

The other is from a series called Australia in black and white, of 16 drawings of important and famous Australians. Again, Namatjira has drawn people who have had an influence on his life.

Vincent Namatjira is a well-known Australian artist, represented in the national collection and most Australian State collections. In 2020, he won the most prestigious art prize in Australia, the Archibald Prize, and that year he was awarded an OAM in honour of his contribution to Indigenous visual arts. In 2015 one of his works was included in the Indigenous Australia: Enduring Civilisation exhibition at the British Museum, and the British Museum acquired a self-portrait of Vincent with Queen Elizabeth for their collection. It is clear his paintings are well-regarded, so this exhibition is warranted.

s 47F . His style is certainly his own and he approaches a broad range of subjects with equanimity and humour.

The National Gallery's remit is to be a reference point for art and art history. Since 1973, when the National Gallery acquired Jackson Pollocks' Blue poles, there has been a dynamic discussion on the artistic merits of works in the national collection, and/or on display at the Gallery. We present works of art to the Australian public to inspire people to explore, experience and learn about art. Sometimes these works may be unpopular or challenging.

s 47F that the joy and fulfilment the national collection brings, not only to visitors to Canberra but to people from across Australia and internationally where our exhibitions and works travel, is immeasurable.

s 47F I want to assure you as a Commonwealth agency, we uphold the principles of the Commonwealth of Australia and the ethics of the public service.

As I mentioned earlier, the intention of the artist is to share portraits of people who have influenced his life, s 47F

s 47F

Vincent's portraits are raw, depicting Australian culture that reflect his experiences.

When you are next in Canberra I hope you might visit the National Gallery so I can give you a tour of the Gallery's collections and facilities.

Kind regards,

Nick

DR NICK MITZEVICH  
Director  
National Gallery of Australia

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M s 22(1)(a)(ii)

W nga.gov.au

Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country  
Parkes Place East, Parkes ACT 2600, Australia GPO Box 1150, Kamberri/Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

The National Gallery acknowledges the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the Kamberri/Canberra region, and recognises their continuous connection to culture, and Country.

-----Original Message-----

From: s 47F

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 2:31 PM

To: Ryan Stokes s 47F Nick Mitzevich <Nick.Mitzevich@nga.gov.au>

Subject: Correspondence from Mrs Gina Rinehart AO

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Dear Ryan and Dr Mitzevich,

Please see below correspondence from Mrs Rinehart.

Kind regards,

s 47F

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Dear Ryan and Dr Mitzevich,

I've had the pleasure of attending annual functions for the National Art Gallery several times, done fantastically, very enjoyable, even uplifting.

To have a National Art Gallery that presents the best our country has to offer, makes us proud of our nation and inspires people (including with outstanding artworks from other countries) is, in my view, a very worthy purpose, s 47F

To be direct, the paintings a concerned friend sent me which I wrote to Ryan about (and he's suggested I include writing to you) s 47F

s 47F

S 47F

In my view, and I believe that of many, many good Australians, our National Gallery should plan differently, and

s 47F

Sincerely,  
Gina Rinehart

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## Document 36

**From:** [Ryan Stokes](#)  
**To:** [Nick Mitzevich](#)  
**Cc:** s 47F  
**Subject:** Re: Vincent Namatjira exhibition - National Gallery of Australia  
**Date:** Wednesday, 15 May 2024 1:07:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Thanks Nick.

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**From:** Nick Mitzevich <Nick.Mitzevich@nga.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2024 12:53:49 PM  
**To:** Ryan Stokes s 47F s 47F  
**Cc:** s 47F s 47F  
**Subject:** Vincent Namatjira exhibition - National Gallery of Australia

Dear Ryan,

Today we have received media questions from the Sydney Morning Herald and the AFR (with a new FOI request from the AFR). And I have received a call from Minister Burke's office as they are fielding media questions.

The Gallery has issued the following statement:

*"The National Gallery welcomes the public having a dialogue on our collection and displays. Since 1973, when the National Gallery acquired Jackson Pollocks' Blue poles, there has been a dynamic discussion on the artistic merits of works in the national collection, and/or on display at the Gallery. We present works of art to the Australian public to inspire people to explore, experience and learn about art. "*

I will keep you updated on any further developments.

Kind regards,

Nick

**DR NICK MITZEVICH**

Director  
National Gallery of Australia

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