

## NGA acquires new works by artist Haegue Yang

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Haegue Yang's Sonic Intermediates – Three Differential Equations, at the National Gallery of Australia. NGA

The voice visitors hear as they take in the exhibition Changing From From To From sounds a lot like artist Haegue Yang.

The sound travels breezily over the space where Yang's immersive multimedia and sculptural forms are on show in Canberra, as the National Gallery of Australia celebrates the artist with the acquisition of two new works.

But the narrator isn't Yang at all. Developed using sophisticated artificial intelligence, it is a replica of her speaking, repurposed, just like the industrial objects, fabrics, faux fur and metals she uses to catch the viewer unaware.

The 2020 sculpture, Three Differential Equations, sits in the middle of the room, moved around by gallery staff to "activate" the work. The industrial castors bump gently over the brutalist gallery's tiled floor, filling the space with a ritualistic rattling of bells, a signature of the work.

Yang told an event to mark the opening of the exhibition on Friday the sculptures each alluded to a pioneering modern artist – Barbara Hepworth, Naum Gabo, and Li Yuan-chia, while a line from Li's poetry had inspired the exhibition's title. The "differential equations" of the sculpture trio refer to calculations of the movement of objects or energy flows.



The exhibition of works by artist Haegue Yang is on show until September 24.

NGA

“I often want to honour not yet happening, imagined encounters,” she said, describing the ideas as “historical creations” between real life characters.

Wrapped around the room is a bespoke wallpaper created by Yang, titled Non-Linear and Non-Periodic Dynamics, inspired by mathematician Edward Lorenz’s use of differential equations to model the chaotic behaviour of weather.

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The wallpaper includes motifs of the national capital region, including the kurrajong tree, bogong moths, and nearby Lake George and Lake Burley Griffin.

Engineering elements from the Snowy Hyrdo system are also sprinkled across the walls. Yang worked with local Indigenous leader Paul Girrawah House to adapt the wallpaper work for the Canberra exhibition.

“Not necessarily from the beginning but at a certain point, the wallpaper became an occasion for me to learn something new and then make an output from it,” she said.

Part of the exhibition, Yang’s Triple Chalkies from 2015, has been added to the National Gallery collection as a gift of Dick Quan and John McGrath, donated through the federal government’s Cultural Gifts Program.

Born in South Korea, Yang’s work has been shown at the Venice Biennale, at the Guggenheim Museum in New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo and London’s Hayward Gallery.

The exhibition was curated by Russell Storer, the NGA’s head international art curator, and Beatrice Thompson, of the Asian and Pacific art department.

Storer said the new acquisitions would strengthen the NGA’s Asian contemporary art collection and continue the Know My Name project, designed to improve gender equality in the collection.

“Yang’s multimedia environments combine everyday materials and found objects in surprising ways,” he said.

“Her works make connections between the divergent worlds of contemporary mass production, ancient cultural traditions, and natural phenomena.”

Haegue Yang: Changing From From To From is free to visit and runs until September 24.