

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

COPY

18 September 2013

Senator the Hon. George Brandis QC
Minister for the Arts
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

King Edward Terrace
Parkes ACT 2600
Australia

TEL 02 6102 7000
FAX 02 6102 7001
WEB portrait.gov.au

Dear Minister

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for the Arts! We are delighted that your interest in the arts will give you this very special leadership opportunity.

I look forward to welcoming you to the National Portrait Gallery, an institution that has benefited greatly from your support in the past. You will no doubt remember the financial stability that you assured the Gallery in May 2007, and we certainly recognise that the Gallery wouldn't be where it is today without your vision and support.

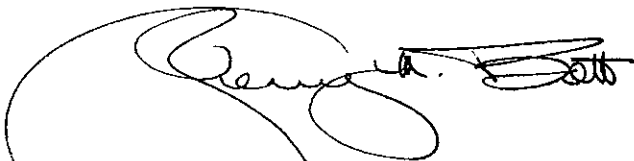
In December 2008 the Gallery opened the doors of its award winning purpose built facility and has welcomed 3 million visitors since that date. On 1 July 2013 the Gallery became a statutory authority under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act*, bringing to fruition a long held desire to stand shoulder to shoulder with the nation's iconic cultural and collecting institutions.

Telling the story of Australia through portraiture is a limitless brief, and it is our aim to make these stories available to all Australians, not only those who are fortunate enough to visit the national capital.

I welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the Gallery's achievements and future direction at your convenience.

Please accept warm congratulations from our Chair, Dr Helen Nugent AO, and myself again on your appointment.

Yours sincerely



Jennifer M Bott AO
Acting Director

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NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

31 October 2013

Senator the Hon George Brandis QC
Attorney-General
Minister for the Arts
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

King Edward Terrace
Parkes ACT 2600
Australia

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Dear Senator Brandis

In December 2013 the National Portrait Gallery will present the exhibition *Elvis at 21, Photographs by Alfred Wertheimer*, a photographic journey featuring works chronicling Elvis' dazzling emergence in 1956.

Accompanying Elvis on the road, in concert, recording, and at home in Memphis, Alfred Wertheimer documented Presley's meteoric rise in the year he catapulted from anonymity to superstardom.

Taken in 1956 the rarely seen photographs show Elvis as an unknown off stage, able to ride unnoticed on the train, mixing with friends and family and strangers alike. The images are remarkably candid, intimate and fresh, offering a glimpse at the magnetic and youthful appeal of the young Elvis. The 56 pigment prints radiate a richness and depth and document a rare moment in time before Elvis became an icon.

Elvis at 21, Photographs by Alfred Wertheimer was developed collaboratively by the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The exhibition is also supported through the ACT Government's Special Event Fund.

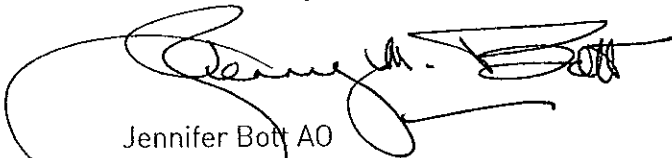
The National Portrait Gallery is the only Australian venue and will present the exhibition from 7 December 2013 to 10 March 2014.

On behalf of the National Portrait Gallery of Australia, the Board and Board Chairman, Dr Helen Nugent AO, I write to invite you to be part of the official launch of *Elvis 21, Photographs by Alfred Wertheimer* on Friday 6 December at 6:00pm.

I would also like to extend an invitation to you to join the Board and VIP guests to a special exhibition preview at 5:30pm and a post exhibition opening dinner at 7:30pm.

I look forward to hearing from you and to welcoming you to the Gallery.

Yours sincerely



Jennifer Bott AO
Acting Director

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NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

15 January 2014

Senator the Hon. George Brandis QC
Minister for the Arts
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

King Edward Terrace
Parkes ACT 2600
Australia

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Dear Minister

I write to cordially invite you to officially open the *National Photographic Portrait Prize 2014*, which will be launched on the evening of Friday 21 March 2014 at 6pm.

The *National Photographic Portrait Prize* is an annual event intended to promote the very best in contemporary photographic portraiture by both professional and aspiring Australian photographers. With a prize valued at \$25,000, it is considered one of the premier photographic prizes in Australia.

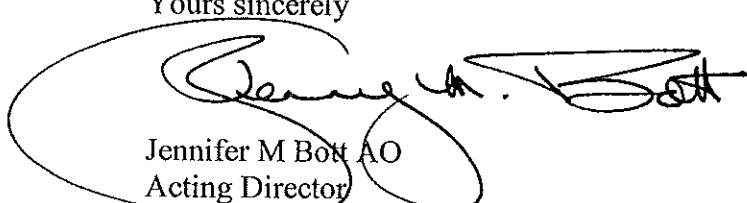
This year – the sixth in the *Prize's* history - the Gallery received over 1400 entries, which the expert judging panel have with great care whittled to the 45 finalists whose works will be on display.

Following its exhibition in Canberra, the *NPPP2014* will embark on a national tour to regional centres including Wagga Wagga, Cowra, Wangaratta and Devonport. To date, the *NPPP* has toured to 19 regional venues across New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia, attracting close to 65,000 visitors. The *NPPP2014* is supported by the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program.

In addition to the announcement of the *NPPP2014* prize winner, the Gallery will simultaneously launch a second but equally important exhibition entitled *Promo – portraits from prime time*, which goes behind-the-scenes and into the spotlight with professional photographers and the stars of TV, music and comedy. We hope to attract a good few of those portrait subjects to the launch on the 21st which is shaping up to be a colourful and busy evening!

Your support of this dual exhibition opening will be greatly valued by the Gallery's Board and our new Director, Angus Trumble. I do hope your schedule will allow your attendance at this very special event.

Yours sincerely



Jennifer M Bott AO
Acting Director