



## Media release

4 December 2025



### **Lights! Cameras! Cartoons! – *Behind the Lines 2025* opens at MoAD**

All the twists and turns of another eventful year in Australian politics are showcased in *Behind the Lines 2025: Are We Rolling?* – the annual cartoon exhibition at the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) opens today at Old Parliament House. *Behind the Lines* this year celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> year, making it one of the longest-running annual exhibitions in Australia.

Drawing inspiration from the wonderful world of movie making, this year's exhibition features 45 of Australia's finest cartoonists. Using humour, satire and pathos, they have turned in star performances to interpret this year's political drama and intrigue, here at home and overseas.

Matt Golding has been named the 2025 Political Cartoonist of the Year. A second time winner, Golding has been commended by the judges as a "master of the pocket cartoon". His work, which appears in the *Sydney Morning Herald*

and *The Age*, covers a diverse array of topics, including the federal election, climate change and the housing crisis.

MoAD Acting Director Andrew Harper said *Behind the Lines* features outstanding works by a stellar cast of cartoonists from across the political spectrum.

“Many stories caught the attention of Australian cartoonists, such as the federal election, climate change, artificial intelligence, wars overseas and the second Trump presidency,” Mr Harper said.

“We hope visitors to *Behind the Lines* will leave with a greater appreciation of the importance of cartoonists in our democratic system. Like a good movie, they take us on an emotional journey – they make us laugh and make us cry in equal measure.”

Chair of the Board of Old Parliament House, Barrie Cassidy, congratulated *Behind the Lines* on its three-decade run as Australia’s premier cartoon exhibition.

“A 30-year run is a remarkable feat. *Behind the Lines* has become a cultural landmark, bringing together political commentary, humour and art and where Australians unpack the year with razor-sharp perspicacity,” Mr Cassidy said.

“This milestone underscores the enduring power of satire and creativity in our democracy. Old Parliament House is the enduring heartbeat of Australian democracy, making it an iconic backdrop for the exhibition. The ‘people’s place’ belongs to all Australians, and we invite everyone to join us in celebrating our great democratic traditions.”

*Behind the Lines* curator Mathew Jones said this year’s exhibition has many exciting chapters – just like popular film franchises.

“We have 130 of the best cartoons of the year, covering all the major news stories. A great cartoonist responds to more than just recent headlines, they tease out broader themes that resonate long after yesterday’s news becomes tomorrow’s fish and chip wrapping.”

Mr Jones saluted an exceptional generation of creative artists who are channeling the zeitgeist in a very human way in an era of great digital disruption.

“The challenges of Generative Artificial Intelligence for the media, for the arts, for culture, are just beginning to be felt. AI can draw you a cartoon, but it can’t give you originality, nuance or contextual awareness. And your horse might have five legs! Right now, though, we still have human cartoonists with the experience and the talent to help us understand and navigate our bewildering world.”

This year’s *In Focus* section is curated by investigative journalist and author Chris Masters. As part of the exhibition, Masters has looked back over the span of his career and selected cartoons which address stories of corruption exposed by the media.

A selection of cartoons from *Behind the Lines* will tour the country, taking the works to a wider audience. The tour is generously supported by the federal government through a grant from the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program (NCITO). It will travel to:

- Old Treasury Building, VIC: 2 March to 3 May 2026
- Burnie Regional Art Gallery, TAS: 15 May to 19 July 2026
- Bob Hawke Centre, SA: 17 September to 13 November 2026

*Behind the Lines 2025: Are We Rolling?* will be on display at MoAD at Old Parliament House, Canberra from 4 December 2025 until November 2026. Entry is free from 9am to 5pm daily (except Christmas Day).

### **Matt Golding, 2025 Political Cartoonist of the Year**

Matt Golding has been named the 2025 Cartoonist of the Year. Golding is a Melbourne-based cartoonist who currently draws political cartoons for *The Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

A second-time winner of the award, his cartoons have appeared regularly in *Behind the Lines* since the 1990s. Golding has been praised as a master of the pocket cartoon, who has created work that is funny, poignant and inventive. His cartoons have covered the big themes of the year including the federal election and its aftermath, climate change, the plight of First Australians, child abuse in day care centres and the housing crisis.

This year’s judging panel comprised Phil Coorey, Political Editor of the *Australian Financial Review*; cartoon academic Dr Stephanie Brookes; Cathy Wilcox, President of the Australian Cartoonists Association; Anne-Marie Condé, MoAD Senior Curator and Matthew Jones, *Behind the Lines* Exhibition Curator.

### **Images**

Available [here](#).

**Media enquiries**

[media@moadoph.gov.au](mailto:media@moadoph.gov.au) or 02 6270 8120.

**Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) at Old Parliament House**

The Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) at Old Parliament House is a modern museum located inside a heritage-listed building that was once home to Australia's national parliament.

MoAD protects, conserves and interprets this national icon to highlight the crucial role the building and its collections have played in shaping today's Australia. The museum strives to share the story of Australia's democracy through exhibitions, educational programs, publications and digital content to increase understanding of the nation's social and political history.

By actively exploring how Australia's democratic systems work, audiences of all ages are inspired and equipped to participate as engaged citizens in our democracy.

**Caption:** MATT GOLDING, *Are We Rolling?*, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, 4 December 2025.