

For immediate release

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Adolescent Wonderland

Naomi Hobson's photographic series on display at the Horniman

A series of photographs by artist **Naomi Hobson** exploring the beauty, love and humour of the First Nations young people in her community in Coen, northern Queensland goes on display at the Horniman Museum and Gardens from Friday 8 December 2023.

Adolescent Wonderland is a series of vibrant full-coloured portraits highlighting the young people's individuality and self-expression set against black and white backgrounds, speaking to the importance of preserving their culture and history.

Taken over a number of seasons between 2019 and 2023, the photographs present a raw, honest beauty that elevates the voices of young people in Naomi Hobson's community, encouraging them to tell their own stories in their own way. The title of the series is a play on Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll, referencing childhood adventures and fantasy worlds.

Naomi Hobson says: 'Every young person in my photographs has a story to tell. First Nations people never had the opportunity to tell our story through our lens. I wanted to convey this by letting the young people lead their own narratives and confront misconceptions about how they are represented. If someone is brave enough to tell you who they are, be brave enough to support them.'

Naomi Hobson is an artist of Southern Kaantju descent who works across painting, photography and ceramics. Her relationship with photography started when she began documenting her clan members working on their traditional lands in Cape York, Queensland, Australia. She has long advocated for the return of traditional lands, social and economic reform within her community and the importance young people play in building a better future.

Adolescent Wonderland has previously been exhibited throughout Australia. This is the first time the series has been shown internationally.

More

Adolescent Wonderland can be seen at the Horniman from Friday 8 December 2023 until Sunday 8 December 2024. Entry is free.

Ends

Horniman Press Office - Tel: 020 8291 8166 - press@horniman.ac.uk

Picture shows: OMG, from Adolescent Wonderland at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, © Naomi Hobson

Notes to Editors:

- For more information about **Naomi Hobson's** work see naomihobsonartist.com.au
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** was [Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022](#), the world's largest museum prize.
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium, alongside a World Gallery of anthropology and a flexible arts and exhibition space, The Studio. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. horniman.ac.uk
- The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** relies on income from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and the Café to help care for the Gardens, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of our visitors and donors is hugely appreciated. horniman.ac.uk/support-us
- The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** is core-funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725.
- On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration – and the subsequent **Climate and Ecological Manifesto**, published in January 2020 – is a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman's environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman's manifesto commitments and progress so far at horniman.ac.uk/climate.