

# TOGETHER - ALONE

The Australian designers selected for **"Together - Alone"** are labels Akira, MaterialByProduct, Romance Was Born and Toni Maticevski. The selected New Zealand labels are Doris de Pont, Nom\*D, World and Zambesi.

As close neighbours, Australia and New Zealand share common fashion ground. Regional identities in a global fashion system, Australian and New Zealand designers have received international recognition for their distinctive and original approaches. Bringing together a selection of work from the last decade, this exhibition highlights the dynamic practices of eight leading contemporary Australian and New Zealand independent fashion labels. Drawing on a number of key loans, as well as recent NGV acquisitions, "Together - Alone" investigates and contrasts the sometimes disquieting sources of inspiration that lie at the heart of these designers' works. *Information from the media release.*

The exhibition, TOGETHER-ALONE was co-curated by Kate Somerville and Laura Jocic, Curators of Fashion and Textile at the NGV, and opened on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 in the Myer Fashion & Textiles Gallery at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Federation Square. It continues until 18 April, 2010. The gallery is open 10am-5pm, closed Mondays. [www.ngv.vic.gov.au](http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au)

Fashion houses represented: above, left to right: *Outfit comprising couture excesses 2007-08 autumn-winter Soft hard harder collection by Material By Product, Melbourne* established 2004, Susan Dimasi and Chantal McDonald, designers. *Outfit 2000* of silk organza and glass beads, Metamorphosis collection, spring-summer 2000-01 by **Aakira, Sydney**, designer Akira Isogawa.

At right: Fashion house **Doris de Pont, Auckland**, *Outfit: Habanero halter top, Pacific pleats skirt, Hibiscus feather and Pule headpiece, Towards a ship of new arrivals... necklace 2003* from the Let's gather here collection winter 2004. Doris de Pont designer; Margo Barton milliner; Sofia Tekela-Smith. Polyester, video tape, transparent synthetic polymer resin, vinyl, cotton thread, mother-of-pearl.

Far right: Fashion house **World, Auckland** established 1989. Francis Hooper and Denise L'Estrange-Corbet, designers. *Sanderson suit 1997* World International collection, spring-summer 1997-98, of cotton acetate, plastic, metal.

All works in the collection of the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne.

