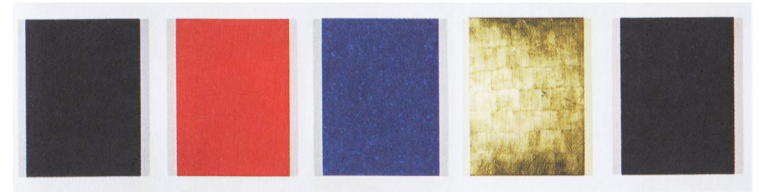


# ROBERT OWEN

NGVI, Level 3, Gallery 36

One of Australia's leading artists, known for his work across art, installation, education and urban design, Robert Owen represented Australia at the 38th Venice Biennale in 1978 and received the Emeritus Award for Lifetime Service to visual art from the Australia Council in 2002. Owen's grid paintings, geometric sculptures, installations, public commissions and work in architecture and design employ formalist abstraction to convey metaphysical concerns. The subject of survey exhibitions at Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, and Art Gallery of New South Wales in 1999 and 2004 respectively, Owen's sustained cross-disciplinary experimentation and diversity of conceptual influences exemplify the increasingly hybrid nature of contemporary art.

*Lacuna*, 2013, is an expansive, newly commissioned wall painting for Level 3 of NGV International. This intense and enveloping ultramarine blue monochrome work relates to Owen's first fundamental encounter with the colour – commonly associated with tranquillity and calmness – when visiting Giotto's fresco in the Scrovegni Chapel, Padua, Italy. *Lacuna*, in the artist's words, 'suggests a fundamental ground in the passage between spirit and matter, space and time, past and future, art and design', and creates a meditative space between art, architecture and viewers' conscious perception. **MG**



**Robert Owen**  
*Hydra – out of the blue:*  
*Lamp black, Cinnabar, Lapis lazuli, Gold leaf, Bone black*  
1964–76