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The National Gallery of Australia's new eX de Medici artwork now on display



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Artist eX de Medici (right) in front of her work 'Shotgun wedding dress' which is now on display at the National Gallery of Australia. *Photo: National Gallery of Australia*

It's one of the newest additions to the National Gallery of Australia, and you'd certainly struggle to walk past it without paying attention.

The Shotgun Wedding Dress is a new work by Canberra-based artist eX de Medici, which was commissioned this year specifically for the NGA, and is on display for the first time.

The striking dress gets its inspiration from the *Sound of Music*.

"I think the idea of the shotgun wedding of Maria Von Trapp was something that captured eX's imagination and I think there's a wry kind of beauty if one can say that in the idea of something really beautiful like that classic wedding dress that was worn at the time and then the undertow of what was happening with the Nazi regime," said the NGA's senior curator Deborah Hart.

"I guess with eX's work it's partly looking back but it's also about how things keep playing in different ways. So this idea she's worked with a lot with beauty and danger being interwoven is very much at the core of what this work's about."

The dress forms part of the NGA's new Australian galleries, and is on display now.