

Memory through song: Family heirlooms reimagined in Danielle Brustman's new matriarch-inspired exhibition at the Jewish Museum of Australia

A new exhibition from acclaimed interior designer Danielle Brustman, *I Could Have Danced All Night*, is coming to the Jewish Museum of Australia: Gandel Centre of Judaica in August. The evocative showcase, inspired by family, music and heritage, invites visitors to immerse themselves in memory, language and song.

I Could Have Danced All Night is a deeply personal exhibition inspired by Brustman's grandmothers, Marta and Dora; it is a timely exploration of themes such as legacy, identity and the power of objects to hold and share stories.

The centrepiece comprises two intricately designed boxes – one a music box and the other part-jewellery, part-memory box. These objects encapsulate detailed and personalised memories of Danielle's matriarchal figures. Furniture and personal items from her grandmothers' lives, including a timber dresser and favourite lipstick colour, are repurposed and reimagined through the construction of both boxes, infusing the exhibition with layers of family history, melodies of cherished songs, and echoes of the past.

Known for her vibrant use of colour and a playful aesthetic that marries modern sophistication with nostalgic influences, Danielle brings her unique vision to the Jewish Museum of Australia (JMA).



*IMAGE: Danielle with her grandmother, Marta, 1980.
Image courtesy of Danielle Brustman*

Her previous work – including the *Inner-Terior* installation for the Rigg Design Prize 2018, and *Split* for Melbourne Design Week 2024, a collection of sculptural wall mirrors derived from a series of personal symbols and recurring design patterns – reflects her deep engagement with colour, form and narrative-driven design.

In an era where the world grapples with questions of cultural heritage and the preservation of intangible histories, Danielle Brustman’s work offers a poignant reflection on the threads that connect us to our past and to each other.

The Eva and Marc Besen Contemporary Artist Commission *I Could Have Danced All Night* will open on 11 August, running alongside the JMA exhibition, *A Secret Chord*, which opens on 1 November through to March 2025.

Museum Director and CEO, Noè Harsel says: “*The Jewish Museum of Australia invites the public to experience this captivating work by Danielle Brustman, which is a moving testament to the enduring bonds of love, memory and family connection.*”

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For media enquiries and interview requests for Danielle Brustman or Noè Harsel (CEO and Museum Director), please contact Dina Kluska: dina@pitchprojects.com or 0409 011 092 or Bec Bridges: bec@pitchprojects.com or 0405 655 245

DANIELLE BRUSTMAN

Danielle Brustman's Melbourne based studio encompasses a broad spectrum of practice, from residential interiors and commercial design for the hospitality, education and retail sectors along with furniture and lighting design for exhibition and installation.

Danielle works with a rich syntax of colour to conceive works that challenge our perception of private and public space. Her design work is narrative driven and informed by dynamic colour relationships, geometric form and fantastical spaces.



Danielle began her design career working as a set designer for theatre and performance collaborating with some of Australia's most celebrated theatre makers, companies and artists. In 2012, she established her interior design studio in Melbourne.

ABOUT THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

The Jewish Museum of Australia illuminates Jewish life. At the intersection of art and Jewish culture, the Museum is a place for all people to share in the Australian Jewish experience. For more information, visit the website: jewishmuseum.com.au