



MENZIES CENTRE FOR  
AUSTRALIAN STUDIES  
Australia: Land and Landscape symposium

Organised in conjunction with the  
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, and  
the Australian High Commission, London

In honour of the exhibition *Australia*  
at the Royal Academy of Arts, London

## SYMPOSIUM DATE AND TIME

Wednesday 25 September 2013

9.30 am – 5.30 pm

## LOCATION

Downer Room, Australia House,  
Strand, London WC2B 4LA, United Kingdom

## BOOKINGS

The symposium is FREE.

But, to ensure you obtain a seat, please register before attending.

To register, please go to [australialandscape.eventbrite.co.uk](http://australialandscape.eventbrite.co.uk)  
or for enquiries [charmane.head@nga.gov.au](mailto:charmane.head@nga.gov.au)

**Australia: Land and Landscape** symposium is a collaboration between the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, King's College London, the Australian High Commission, London, and the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. This event is organised in conjunction with the exhibition **Australia** at the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

**KING'S**  
*College*  
**LONDON**

University of London



Australian High Commission  
United Kingdom



NATIONAL GALLERY  
OF AUSTRALIA

**RA** Royal  
Academy  
of Arts

## PROGRAM

9.30 **Welcome**

Andrew Todd, Australian Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom

9.35 **Keynote talk – Australia: land and landscape – an Australian perspective**

Ron Radford, Director, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

10.30 Morning tea

10.55 **Session 1/ Australian art 1800 to today**

Intro: Professor Carl Bridge, Head of the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, King's College London

11.00 **Australian sublime**

Andrew Wilton, former keeper of the British Collection, Tate, London

11.30 **Australian Impressionists as Symbolists**

Anne Gray, Head of Australian Art, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

12.00 **Modern women: Margaret Preston, Grace Cossington Smith, Dorrit Black, Bea Maddock**

Daniel Thomas, Emeritus Director, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

12.30 **Longing belonging: Hossein Valamanesh and Imants Tillers**

Sarah Thomas, Lecturer, Kingston College, London, and former curator of paintings, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

1.00–1.55 Lunch

1.55 **Session 2/ Australian Aboriginal art**

Intro: Helen Idle, Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, King's College London

2.00 **Country: Aboriginal art**

Franchesca Cubillo, Senior Advisor, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

2.30 **Rediscovering a rare 19th-century bark painting**

Philip Jones, Senior Curator, Department of Anthropology, South Australian Museum, Adelaide

3.00 Afternoon tea

3.25 **Session 3/ Artist talks**

Intro: Ian Henderson, Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, King's College London

3.30 **Glyphs and the Australian landscape**

GW Bot, artist

4.00 **Constructed landscapes and capital complexes**

Callum Morton, artist and Professor and Head of Fine Arts, Monash University, Melbourne

4.30 **Abstracted and idealised landscapes: minimalism and the memorial**

Kathy Temin, artist and Associate Professor of Fine Arts, Monash University, Melbourne

5.00 **Closing discussion**

5.30 Drinks

## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Keynote address: 'Australia: Land and Landscape – An Australian perspective'**

**Ron Radford** has been Director of the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, since 2005. Before that, he was director of the Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, from 1991. He has worked in the art museum profession for nearly forty years. He has been responsible for the acquisition of more than 25,000 works of art for the various art museums he has worked in and has personally curated nearly sixty exhibitions. He is the author of numerous catalogues and books. In 2002, he became a Member of the Order of Australia and 2009 the French Government awarded him a Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters. In 2012, he was presented with a Laureate Medal for a lifetime of service to Australian art by the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council.

### **Session 1/ Australian art 1800 to today**

**Andrew Wilton** is the former keeper of the British Collection, Tate, London. He has also worked at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool; the Department of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum; and the Yale Center for British Art, New Haven. He is the author of many works on Turner as well as John Constable, William Blake, British watercolours and British painting.

**Anne Gray** is the Head of Australian Art and Senior Curator of Australian Painting and Sculpture before 1920 at the National Gallery of Australia. She has worked in the art museum profession for more than thirty years. She has curated around forty exhibitions and has written widely on Australian and British art and artists.

**Daniel Thomas** was chief curator at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, then founding head of Australian art at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, and finally Director of the Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide. He is now retired and living on the Tasmanian Riviera.

**Sarah Thomas** has lectured in the United Kingdom and Australia and held various curatorial positions, including curator of Australian Art at the Art Gallery of South Australia. In 2013, she received a Cultural Engagement Fellowship from the University of Oxford, and she is currently working with Tate on a forthcoming exhibition about art and the British Empire.

**Grace Cossington Smith** *The Bridge in building 1929*, oil on pulpboard, 75 x 53 cm, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, gift of Ellen Waugh, 2005

### **Session 2/ Australian Aboriginal art**

**Franchesca Cubillo** is an Aboriginal Larrakia woman; an Aboriginal Bardi woman; Aboriginal Yanyuwa/Yanuwa woman and Aboriginal Wardaman. She is Senior Advisor, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.

**Philip Jones** is Senior Curator, Department of Anthropology, South Australian Museum, Adelaide, where he has worked as a curator since the mid 1980s. He has curated thirty exhibitions dealing with Aboriginal art, history and material culture. His book *Ochre and rust: artefacts and encounters on Australian frontiers* won the 2008 Prime Minister's Literary Award for Non-Fiction.

### **Session 3/ Artist talks**

**GW Bot** (the exhibiting name of Chrissie Grishin) is a contemporary Australian printmaker and sculptor who has created her own signs and glyphs to capture her close personal relationship with the landscape and gardens around Canberra. Her artist name derives from 'le grand Wam Bot', after the early French explorers' term for the wombat, which she has adopted as a totemic animal. A touring survey was organised by the Goulburn Regional Art Gallery from 2010 to 2013.

**Callum Morton's** art reveals a persistent interest in modernist architecture as an area for open-ended critical reflection. In drawings, installations and digital prints of houses, cinema screens, monuments and vortexes, Morton combines pathos and deadpan humour. He often adds sound and film recordings, weaving disjointed stories in urban or suburban theatres of mind. In 2012, he was appointed as Head of Fine Arts at Monash University, Melbourne. A survey of his work was held at the Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, in 2011.

**Kathy Temin** has become best known for her visceral soft sculptures that blur the boundaries of public and private, presence and absence. Temin engages with the past and a broader adversity, including idealised landscape sculptures as sites of reflection and memory, contrasted with the emotional content found in soft-toy imagery and the minimalism of monochrome. A survey exhibition was held at the Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, in 2009, and the project 'My Monument: Black Garden' at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, in 2011. She is currently an Associate Professor at Monash University, Melbourne.