



MARGARET PRESTON ART AND LIFE SYMPOSIUM

Saturday 6 August 2005, 10.00am to 4.00pm

Exhibition on view at the Art Gallery of New South Wales from 29 July to 23 October 2005



EXHIBITION PROGRAM SPONSOR



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This exhibition is supported by Visions of Australia, an Australian government program supporting touring exhibitions by providing funding assistance for the development and touring of cultural material across Australia.

above: Margaret Preston aged 19, 1894 photographer unknown National Gallery of Australia, courtesy of the artist's family

cover: Margaret Preston, Implement blue 1927 (detail) oil on canvas on paperboard 42.5 x 43cm Gift of the artist 1960, Art Gallery of New South Wales @ Margaret Preston Estate, Licensed by VISCOPY Australia 2005

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES ART GALLERY RD THE DOMAIN 2000 INFORMATION LINE 1800 679 278 www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au

SYMPOSIUM MARGARET PRESTON: ART AND LIFE

Saturday 6 August 2005, 10am-4pm Domain Theatre, Level 3 Art Gallery of New South Wales

Featuring Keynote speaker Ron Radford, Director National Gallery of Australia; exhibition curators Deborah Edwards, Senior Curator of Australian art and Rose Peel, Senior Conservator; Catriona Moore, Lecturer University of Sydney; Humphrey McQueen, author; Hetti Perkins, Senior Curator of Aboriginal art and Mary Eagle, curator and art historian.

One of the great enigmas of modern Australian art history, Margaret Preston's idealistic visions and philosophies pose more questions than her works alone can answer. Join leading curators and art historians to explore the fascinating and extensive body of work that is represented in her first major retrospective. A day of engaging debate and revealing detail presenting Preston's extraordinary persona contextualised within her unique place in Australian culture.

Cost \$80 Full, \$70 AGS Members, \$50 Concession, this includes the symposium, morning tea, lunch and exhibition entry. Bookings call AGS 02 9225 1878 or AGS fax 02 9221 6234 email bookings@artgallerysociety.org.au

'I'm personally aiming at the simplification of all forms and to express the monumental form and dry colour of Australian landscapes . . . I wish to continue the basic work of the Aborigines ... What I am after in my work is to give the national, spiritual and characteristic features of this country'.

Margaret Preston, 'Australian artists speak' radio 2FC, 1945

PROGRAM

4.00

Close

10.00 am	Welcome and introduction Edmund Capon, Director, Art Gallery of New South Wales
10.15am	Keynote address Ron Radford, Director, National Gallery of Australia Saint Margaret of modernism or The preposterous self-promoting Preston
10.45am	Morning tea
11.15am	Deborah Edwards, exhibition curator Margaret Preston: 'An art for Australia, from Australians'
12.00pm	Rose Peel, exhibition co-curator Margaret Preston: a material girl explained
12.30	Lunch break
1.30pm	Catriona Moore, catalogue contributor and Lecturer, University of Sydney Hunters and collectors – Western primitivism at the neo-colonial periphery
2.00pm	Humphrey McQueen, catalogue contributor and freelance historian Preston's politics
2.30pm	Coffee break
2.45pm	Hetti Perkins, catalogue contributor, Curator AGNSW Prickly natives in Australian art
3.15pm	Mary Eagle, art historian, curator and catalogue contributo Preston's Aboriginality and the timeless land