

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
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ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
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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

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|----------|---|
| 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
<i>Saint Margaret of modernism</i>
or
<i>The preposterous self-promoting Preston</i> |
| 10.45am | Morning tea |
| 11.15am | Deborah Edwards, exhibition curator
<i>Margaret Preston: 'An art for Australia, from Australians'</i> |
| 12.00pm | Rose Peel, exhibition co-curator
<i>Margaret Preston: a material girl explained</i> |
| 12.30 | Lunch break |
| 1.30pm | Catriona Moore, catalogue contributor
and Lecturer, University of Sydney
<i>Hunters and collectors – Western primitivism at the neo-colonial periphery</i> |
| 2.00pm | Humphrey McQueen, catalogue contributor
and freelance historian
<i>Preston's politics</i> |
| 2.30pm | Coffee break |
| 2.45pm | Hetti Perkins, catalogue contributor, Curator AGNSW
<i>Prickly natives in Australian art</i> |
| 3.15pm | Mary Eagle, art historian, curator and catalogue contributor
<i>Preston's Aboriginality and the timeless land</i> |
| 4.00 | Close |