

Media Release

26 February 2015

Hazelhurst
REGIONAL GALLERY & ARTS CENTRE

THE TRIUMPH OF MODERNISM IN THE ART OF AUSTRALIA

28 March – 24 May 2015



“A rich and representative display of the story of modern Australian art.”

Edmund Capon

Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre is honoured to present *The Triumph of Modernism in the Art of Australia*, a major exhibition from the collection of TarraWarra Museum of Art in Victoria, which was originally founded by Eva Besen AO and Marc Besen AO. TarraWarra Museum of Art is Australia's first public art museum to be funded by a private donation.

The Triumph of Modernism spans 60 years of Australian Art and features over 50 iconic works by 26 artists who have shaped the development of modern art in Australia. Curated for Hazelhurst by its patron, Edmund Capon, the exhibition provides an opportunity to see some works that are rarely made available for public viewing. “This is the first time Sydney audiences will be able to see the collection in such depth, revealing the strength and diversity it holds” said Belinda Hanrahan, Director, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre.

Edmund Capon says “My objective here has been to illustrate two themes; firstly the triumph of modernism in Australian art and, secondly, the particular qualities and strengths of the TarraWarra and Besen collections.”

The Triumph of Modernism tells the story of a new identity in Australian art commencing post World
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War II with artists such as Sidney Nolan, Arthur Boyd, Russell Drysdale, John Brack, John Perceval and Charles Blackman. Later years see the continuing development of modern art in the works of Fred Williams and John Olsen, and in more recent times in contemporary art by artists Imants Tillers, Howard Arkley and Aida Tomescu.

The Triumph of Modernism is a rich and representative display of the story of modern Australia, with a particular and deliberate emphasis on Australian identity, although it is just a glimpse into the remarkable collections.

Artists featured: Howard Arkley / George Baldessin / Charles Blackman / Arthur Boyd / John Brack / William Delafield Cook / William Dobell / Russell Drysdale / Ian Fairweather / Joy Hester / Dale Hickey / Roger Kemp / Joanna Lamb / Godfrey Miller / Sidney Nolan / John Olsen / John Perceval / Jeffrey Smart / Tim Storrier / Edwin Tanner / Imants Tillers / Aida Tomescu / Tony Tuckson / Brett Whiteley / Fred Williams / William Wright

For further details please visit www.hazelhurst.com.au.

The Triumph of Modernism will also be shown at TarraWarra Museum of Art from 21 June – 16 August 2015.

This exhibition is a partnership project between TarraWarra Museum of Art and Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre.

On Show: 28 March – 24 May 2015

At: Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre, 782 Kingsway, Gymea NSW

Open: Daily 10am – 5pm.

Admission: Free

Enquiries: Tel 8536 5700 Email: hazelhurst@ssc.nsw.gov.au www.hazelhurst.com.au

Images from left to right: John Olsen *Salute to Cerberus* 1965, oil on plywood. TarraWarra Museum of Art collection. Gift of Eva Besen AO and Marc Besen AO 2001; Jeffrey Smart, *The dome* 1977, oil and acrylic on canvas. TarraWarra Museum of Art collection. Gift of Eva Besen AO and Marc Besen AO. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program 2008.

MEDIA CONTACT:

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Interviews and images available on request.

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