

TEN YEARS OF CONTEMPORARY ART: The James C Sourris AM Collection

Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane
12 November 2011 – 19 February 2012

MEDIA INQUIRIES

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IMAGES

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1 September 2011

JAMES C SOURRIS, AM COLLECTION CELEBRATED IN GoMA EXHIBITION



Image: Vernon Ah Kee / Kuku Yalanji/Waanyi/ Yidinyji/Guugu Yimithirr people / *neither pride nor courage* 2006 / The James C Sourris AM Collection. Gift of James C Sourris AM, through the Queensland Art Gallery Foundation 2007 / Collection: Queensland Art Gallery.

An exhibition highlighting the vital role benefaction has played in the development of the Queensland Art Gallery's contemporary art Collection will be part of the Gallery of Modern Art's (GoMA) fifth anniversary celebration this summer.

Queensland Art Gallery Director Tony Ellwood said 'Ten Years of Contemporary Art: The James C Sourris, AM Collection', on display at GoMA from November 12 to February 19, 2012, would showcase the generosity and vision of leading Queensland arts philanthropist James C Sourris, AM.

'Mr Sourris has been a generous advocate of contemporary art since the early 1990s. Like other key benefactors including Tim Fairfax, AM; Gina Fairfax; the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation; Win Schubert; Philip Bacon; John and Barbara Hay; Henry Bartlett; Cathryn Mittelheuser, AM and Margaret Mittelheuser, AM, he's provided ongoing support to the Queensland Art Gallery through numerous acquisitions for over a decade,' Mr Ellwood said.

'Including works by Queenslanders such as Gordon Bennett, Eugene Carchesio and Madeleine Kelly, 'Ten Years of Contemporary Art' features paintings, works on paper, video, installation and photography by more than 60 artists.

'The exhibition includes key contemporary works acquired by the Gallery with Mr Sourris's support and also features works from his own personal collection that will be gifted to the Gallery.

'It highlights Mr Sourris's commitment to contemporary Australian art, and the difference an individual benefactor and patron can make to the development of the Queensland Art Gallery's Collection.

'Most recently Mr Sourris assisted the Gallery with acquiring a superb range of early surrealist publications and archival material currently featured as part of 'Surrealism: The Poetry of Dreams' at GoMA until October 2, 2011.'

Mr Ellwood said 'Ten Years of Contemporary Art: The James C Sourris, AM Collection' focused on works created in the first decade of the 21st century, with particular attention to contemporary Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists from Queensland.

'This exhibition is an opportunity to honour Mr Sourris's sustained and generous support of the Queensland Art Gallery. It celebrates one person's support for contemporary art, and offers audiences a unique insight into how an individual's passions drive the making of a collection,' he said.

'Works donated and supported by Mr Sourris include Vernon Ah Kee's compelling triptych *neither pride nor courage* 2006, Richard Bell's *Bell's Theorem (Trippy Dicky and friends)* 2005 and Judy Watson's evocative *bloom* 2009.

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'The exhibition also features two major recent acquisitions of early works by senior Australian contemporary artists

'These are Robert Hunter's ephemeral *Untitled*, which will be recreated for the first time since showing at the Second Indian Triennial in 1971, and Peter Kennedy's sculpture *Neon Light Installation (Horizontal)* 1970,' he said.

A selection of video works by leading Australian and international artists such as Justine Cooper, Patricia Piccinini, Mona Hatoum, Yang Fudong, Bill Viola, William Kentridge and Nam June Paik that were secured for the Collection with support from Mr Sourris will also screen on level three of GoMA.

Mr Sourris was made a Member of the Order of Australia on 26 January 2011, for service to the arts and to the community through the development of the motion picture industry and through philanthropic contributions, particularly to the Queensland Art Gallery and the State Library of Queensland.

For more information please visit www.qag.qld.gov.au/sourris

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