

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POP and BEYOND

The Art of Ken Reinhard

Dates: 23 January to 23 February 2019

Launch: Saturday 2 February 2019 2-4 pm by artist Col Jordan

We were delighted to discover pioneering Pop artist and educator Ken Reinhard living close by to the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery in Wahroonga. This proximity enabled us to build a dialogue with Ken enabling us to share a snapshot of his creative life.

Pop and Beyond presents works from the 1960's to selections from his current suite of twenty-one works using reproduction designer chairs in a colourful, cheerful abstraction. The exhibition also creates a snapshot into his creative home that includes several embroidery works from Barbara Reinhard and objects from his collection.

Ken Reinhard has held an active and vital role in Australia as an artist and leading art educator.

Born in 1936 Reinhard attended high school first in Victoria, then in NSW. In his NSW school art was unavailable and he selected Descriptive Geometry and Drawing, and this had a lasting influence. He studied at National Art School and Sydney Teachers College and taught high school Visual Arts until 1968 while developing his practice as an artist. He was awarded the Sulman Prize for 1964, for his painting *The Public Private Preview*, a work that signified the arrival of Pop.

Pop art emerged in England and America in the late 1950's, and it drew inspiration from popular and commercial culture - illustration and advertising. It used 'low' subject matter, was characterised by flat and vibrant colour and text and an apparently uncritical treatment.

Early in his art career Reinhard fully embraced modern life, inspired by technology, industrial materials and the ethos of the machine. His subjects, nudes, cars, road signs, banners and computers revealed a disjunction between two-dimensional images with three-dimensional objects and his exhibitions were often multimedia and multisensory.

In 1974 Reinhard was appointed foundation head of The School of Art at Alexander Mackie College of Advanced Education (subsequently Director of the City Art Institute and Dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of New South Wales), a significant role he continued to lead until 1998. The responsibility of developing the art school was great and he held no public exhibitions from 1974-84, other than two, in his studio, of small sculptures and works. From 1984 he found time to recommence creating and exhibiting his art.

Reinhard has consistently aimed to “extract from fashion the poetry that resides in its historical envelope¹” in his own work and in his advocacy for art education in NSW.

Short Statement 50 Words

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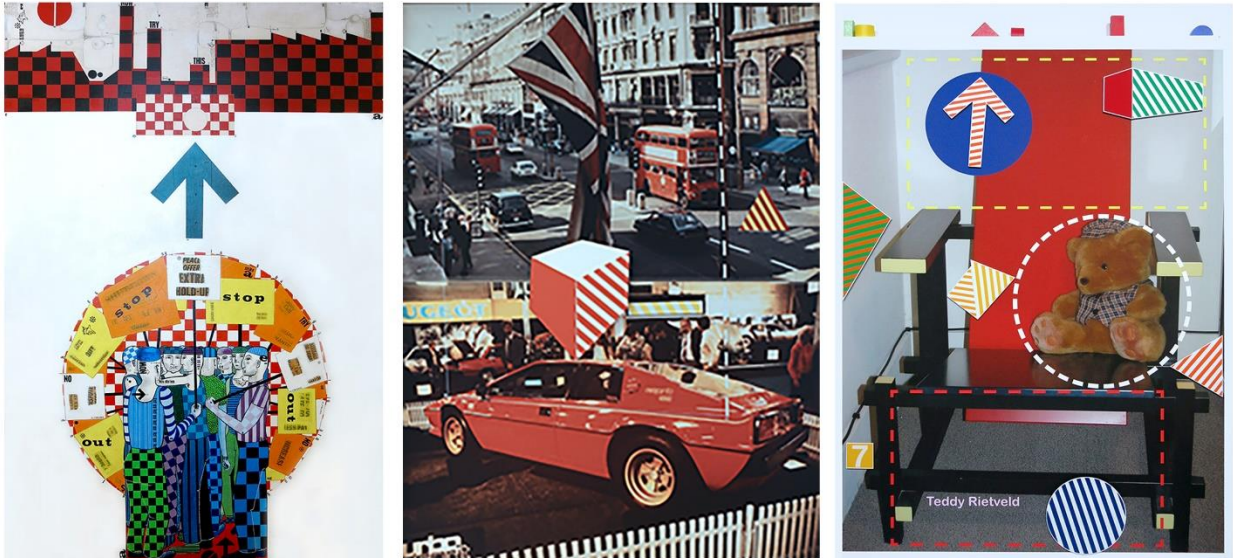
Ken Reinhard has held an active and vital role in Australia as an artist and art educator and is known as a pioneer of Pop art. *Pop and Beyond* presents works from the 1960's to selections from his current suite of works, creating a snapshot into his creative Wahroonga home.

The **Grace Cossington Smith Gallery** is a not-for-profit gallery, run by Abbotsleigh, serving the public through free admission and connections to education. The Gallery is open Monday to Friday from 10 am-5 pm and Saturday from 9 am-4 pm. Enter via Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway Wahroonga. Phone: 02 9473 7878

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¹ Charles Baudelaire *The Painter of Modern Life*

High Resolution images available



Artworks left to right:

Mob of galahs, 1964, mixed media on board, 183 x 122 cm

Esprit in London, 1990, digital photo with collage

Teddy Rietveld, 2016, modified digital photo, 122 X 91 cm