

BLACK ART WHITE WALLS

the Adrian & Anne Newstead Indigenous art collection

24 January 2014 - for immediate release

National Touring Indigenous Art Exhibition
Black Art White Walls - 23 January to 15 March 2014

Exhibiting traditional and contemporary art from the collection of the oldest Aboriginal art gallery in Australia, ***Black Art White Walls*** commenced its national tour at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery at Abbotsleigh, Wahroonga on 23 January.

Adrian and Anne Newstead's collection comprises more than 1000 canvas paintings, barks, artefacts, prints, posters and sculptures. 60 works from areas including Arnhem Land, the Kimberley, Tiwi Islands, the Western Deserts and urban areas have been selected for the premier showing of this exhibition.

Adrian Newstead has more than 30 years' experience working in Aboriginal and Australian contemporary art - he spoke at the opening of ***Black Art White Walls***, and said how delighted he was to see the exhibition commence at a school where there would be collaboration in designing educational programs to accompany the exhibition.

Mrs Judith Poole, Headmistress at Abbotsleigh, referred to the School's appreciation for the great privilege of having students learn about the stories behind the works, and said the exhibition was another part of the School's journey of enhancing its understanding of Indigenous culture. Abbotsleigh works with [Yalari](#), an Indigenous scholarship organisation, to offer Senior School scholarships to two Indigenous students every year. The first Indigenous *Yalari* scholars graduated from Abbotsleigh in 2013.

Welcoming guests to the exhibition, Ms Karen Smith from the [Aboriginal Heritage Office](#) said *"One of the impacts of colonisation is that we've lost connection with some of our stories. This exhibition includes works from areas where the elders do know these stories and have passed them on, so we get to know the stories behind the paintings."*

Featuring world renowned modern masters such as Emily Kngwarreye, Rover Thomas, Clifford Possum and Lin Onus, ***Black Art White Walls*** gives gallery visitors a comprehensive view of the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and craft from the earliest days of the movement to its worldwide acceptance as a dynamic contemporary art movement. The exhibition's works are curated by internationally acclaimed curator and art historian Djon Mundine O.A.M. and reveal regional stylistic difference, time depth and historical insight.

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery is a not-for-profit project run by Abbotsleigh and serves the public through free admission and an education program. The Gallery is open Monday to Saturday from 10 am-5pm. Enter via Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway Wahroonga.

Available for interview:

Adrian Newstead, Executive Director of Coe-ee Aboriginal Art Gallery: 93009433

Mary Faith, Director, Grace Cossington Smith Gallery: 9473 7878 *2 images provided with release*

Short listing

BLACK ART WHITE WALLS

This exhibition presents the collection of Adrian Newstead founder of Coe-ee Aboriginal Art Gallery, Australia's oldest continuously operating Aboriginal art gallery. Curated by Djon Mundine OAM, the Newstead collection surveys Aboriginal art from the genesis of the movement to modernity and brings together some of the finest works from Western Desert to the modern masters: : Emily Kngwarreye, Rover Thomas, Clifford Possum, Lin Onus and others.