

An Anglican Pre K-12 School for Girls

Exciting new art gallery opening at Abbotsleigh

Abbotsleigh is proud to announce the opening of The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, an innovation that will create a connection between art, artists and cross curricular education for the School and the local area. NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell MP will officially open the newly renovated Vindin House, which houses the gallery (named in in honour of artist and past student Grace Cossington Smith) on Friday 11 October with a special School assembly.

The gallery's inaugural exhibition, *Mentors: Inspirational Women*, will be opened by Dr Gene Sherman AM on Saturday 12 October and the exhibition will be open to the public from Sunday 13 October.

In addition to being an active teaching space for the School, the gallery is committed to presenting a changing program of exhibitions accessible to the wider community. The Director, Mary Faith, has invited ten women artists to contribute artworks to the opening exhibition. Cressida Campbell, Elisabeth Cummings, Viola Dominello, Marian Drew, Cherry Hood, Lisa Jones, Janet Laurence, Julie Rrap, Sally Smart and Shona Wilson represent different aspects of contemporary artmaking practice and have had a far reaching impact in Australian art. The exhibition will run until Thursday 5 December 2013.

Workshops in conjunction with this exhibition will be provided by Shona Wilson and Cherry Hood.

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery is committed to serving the general public through free admission and an education program that reaches diverse audiences, including teachers, students from Pre-Kindergarten through Year 12, and adults.

The gallery will be open to the public Tuesday to Sunday from 10 am-5 pm. Enter via Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway Wahroonga. Please visit <u>www.gcsgallery.com.au</u> for details of exhibitions and workshops or call 9473 7878.

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery is a not-for-profit project run by Abbotsleigh, an Anglican pre K-12 Day and Boarding School for girls.

For media enquiries, please contact the Publications Manager on 02 9473 7746.



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