

OTHER SIDE ART: TREVOR NICKOLLS

A SURVEY OF PAINTINGS
AND DRAWINGS
1972–2007

A NETS Victoria touring exhibition developed by the Ian Potter Museum of Art, The University of Melbourne

<insert gallery name> is pleased to present ***Other side art***, the first museum survey of the work of South Australian indigenous artist, Trevor Nickolls, known as “the father of urban aboriginal art” (Brenda Croft, former senior curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art at the National Gallery of Australia).

Spanning Nickolls' work over a thirty-five year period, the survey tracks the social history of Australia using the artist's visual vocabulary, his own iconic language that has influenced and informed subsequent indigenous artists' practice. Nickoll's unique vision set the direction for a generation of urban indigenous artists.

The survey includes more than 55 paintings and works on paper, brought together for the first time from public and private collections across Australia.

The exhibition has been curated by Michael O'Ferrall, a senior independent consultant and curator who has worked with Trevor Nickolls for over three decades, including as the curator of the official Australian Pavilion at the 1990 Venice Biennale, which presented Nickolls's work alongside Kimberley artist Rover Thomas.

Nickoll's works are widely recognised for their 'dreamtime/machinetime' theme, which combines the sheer natural wonder of the Aboriginal land and Dreamtime stories with robust symbols of urban Australia, and has become an enduring *leitmotiv* for the dichotomy of European and Aboriginal histories in Australia

His drawings and paintings reflect his personal experience as a Nunga man and his relationship to land, place and history. These relationships are of universal relevance. They make accessible ideas about nature vs nurture, the psychological and physical self, black and white, 'insider' and 'outsider' that inform our experience of contemporary life.

Director of the Ian Potter Museum of Art, Chris McAuliffe, says the exhibition will establish for new audiences a strong sense of Aboriginal cultural history and socio-political experience.

“It will connect contemporary artists to a tradition of endeavour and experiment. The project will have a substantial impact on younger artists, who, in experiencing survey exhibitions, discover role models and see at first-hand the meaning of commitment, longevity and personal vision”, McAuliffe said.

The exhibition will tour nationally under management by NETS Victoria and with support from 'Visions of Australia', an Australian Government program which supports touring exhibitions with funding assistance to develop and tour Australian cultural material across Australia.

Other side art: Trevor Nickolls, a survey of paintings and drawings 1972 – 2007 will be on public display at **<insert gallery name>** from **<insert start date>** until **<insert end date >**. Further details are available at: www.netsvictoria.org.

Media enquiries:

[Insert contact name, title]

[Insert gallery name]

[Insert contact details]



This exhibition is supported by Visions of Australia, an Australian Government program supporting touring exhibitions by providing funding assistance for the development and touring of Australian cultural material across Australia. Trevor Nickolls' participation in the research stage of the exhibition has been funded by the Government of South Australia through Arts SA. The presentation of this exhibition at the Ian Potter Museum of Art the University of Melbourne was supported by the Sidney Myer Fund

National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Victoria is supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria and the Community Support Fund, by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and through the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.