



Martin SHARP, *Eternity*, 1999, 200 x 390 cm
weavers: Georgina Baker, Merill Dumbrell, Laura Mar, Katia Takla, Cheryl Thornton

Media Release

The Samstag Museum of Art is celebrating the conclusion of its inaugural year. Join us at the University of South Australia's City West campus – as we unveil two textile-based exhibitions:

Coded Cloth

A 21st century revolution in fashion, art and design, showcasing the unusual new genre of interactive, new-media textiles; and

From here to Eternity

A selection of contemporary tapestries, wonderfully crafted by the Victorian Tapestry Workshop – a world centre for one of Western civilisation's oldest and richest art forms.

30 October – 19 December 2008

Coded Cloth is unusual. It features a new art form beyond the imagination, embedding technology into wearable fashion to create a new hybrid art and design. Dr Melinda Rackham – Executive Director from the Adelaide based, Australian Network for Art and Technology, and curator of *Coded Cloth* – has selected works distinguished by innovation.

The exhibition presents elegantly designed 'reactive' furniture by Elliat Rich, whose thermo chromatic Yala flowers printed on the sofa, remain invisible until body heat activates the ink – and the flowers appear (just as the Yala plants bloom after life-giving desert rains). Donna Franklin's 'living garment' is a dress that you grow – made from the beautiful Australian orange bracket fungi. Fashion designers, *High Tea With Mrs Woo*, create the ultimate travel wear – with inbuilt heating circuits; while Alyce Santoro presents fabric woven from recycled audiocassette tapes.

From here to Eternity, is a selection of 52 exquisite tapestries of contemporary Australian art, produced by the renowned Victorian Tapestry Workshop in this revered and ancient form. The exhibition is a stunning example of contemporary tapestry, designed by some of Australia's leading artists, including: Angela Brennan, Mike Brown, Jon Cattapan, Alun Leach-Jones, Reg Mombassa, Gareth Sansom and Martin Sharp. The exhibition title – *From here to Eternity* – celebrates Martin Sharp's quintessentially Sydney tapestry, *Eternity*, his affectionate homage to the great, but humble street artist – Arthur Stace.

Regarded as a world centre for one of Western civilisation's oldest and richest art forms, the Victorian Tapestry Workshop boasts an international reputation for the freshness, vitality and technical excellence of its hand-woven tapestries.

Exhibition hours: Tuesday to Friday 11–5pm, Sunday 2–5pm.

For further information about *Coded Cloth* and *From here to Eternity*, please contact Erica Green, Director, Samstag Museum of Art, telephone 08 8302 0870, mobile 0438 821 239 or visit our website on www.unisa.edu.au/samstagmuseum