



Image: Linda TEGG, *Tortoise* (detail), 2013, HD video, 11:00 min

Media Release

Samstag 2016 Preview: a year to celebrate

In 2016, the Samstag Museum will celebrate both the **University of South Australia's 25th birthday**, and the **25th anniversary of the Samstag Scholarships**, with a very special program of exhibitions and associated events. The adventurous program is strong in innovation and curatorial scholarship, and it honours and celebrates South Australian cultural history.

We begin the year with ***Magic Object***, the **2016 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art**. We are proud to partner with the Art Gallery of South Australia to extend the reach of this significant exhibition. Held every two years since 1990, the Adelaide Biennial is the country's longest-standing survey of contemporary Australian Art. ***Magic Object*** curator, Lisa Slade, wonders if artists are the last magicians; 'conjurers of magical objects and spell-binding experiences'. The Samstag Museum will present a very special selection of works for its contribution to the Biennial, including Juz Kitson's sculptural forms that will drop from the ceiling and encrust the gallery walls.

In June, following *Magic Object*, the world's richest prize for landscape, the ***Fleurieu Art Prize***, will be presented in the city for the first time since the Prize's inception, 18 years ago. The ninth Fleurieu Art Prize – now at the Samstag Museum of Art – will reveal alluring connections between place and culture, creating a city gateway to one of our state's most beautiful regions.

Concurrent with the *Fleurieu Art Prize*, our third and final instalment in the *Revealed* series of exhibitions, takes the pulse of private collecting. ***Revealed³: someone's and everyone's***, examines the role of the collector in supporting artists who work in the intriguing practice of contemporary jewellery. ***someone's and everyone's*** is a glimpse into an often overlooked act of highly personal curation.

Opening in August, ***Experimenta Recharge***, the 6th International Biennial of Media Art, features artists who experiment with media and technology. The work of Australian artists such as Brook Andrew and Khaled Sabsabi will be presented alongside that of more than twenty artists, including international artists from Brazil, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, the UAE and the USA.

Crowning our 2016 program, commencing in October, is a celebration of two momentous anniversaries as we toast the University of South Australia's 25th birthday. Marvellously, it is also the 25th anniversary of one of Australia's great cultural bequests, which created the Anne & Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarships. Two exhibitions, ***Meet the Samstags: Artists and Benefactors*** and ***Quicksilver: 25 years of Samstag Scholarships***, highlight the impact on the cultural fabric of our country – and our state – made by the University of South Australia through its stewardship of Anne and Gordon Samstag's wonderful, historic scholarships.

Meet the Samstags illuminates the enigmatic people behind the Samstag Legacy, showcasing the artistic talents of Anne and Gordon Samstag, two American emigres with unusual family backgrounds who were motivated to support and encourage the careers of Australian artists. This timely exhibition complements a major scholarly biography of the Samstags ***The Samstag Legacy: An Artist's Bequest***, to be published by the Samstag Museum for the University of South Australia's 25th birthday.

Rounding off the 2016 celebrations, ***Quicksilver*** reflects on the impact of the Samstag Scholarships on the trajectory of contemporary Australian art. Pivotal works by six distinguished Samstag scholars highlight the exciting talent that the University of South Australia has had the pleasure of assisting over the last quarter century.

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Complementing the 2016 exhibitions program the Samstag Museum will be presenting events and activities, along with publications and online resources. For details about the Museum's exhibitions and events, and visiting the Museum, please visit unisa.edu.au/samstagmuseum.

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The Samstag Museum of Art is delighted to be offering two Limited Edition Prints, as an edition of 10 by eminent Australian artists Sydney Ball and Shaun Gladwell. Each print is signed by the artist and produced for the University of South Australia's 25th birthday. Please contact the Museum for details.

For all media enquiries and information contact

Erica Green

Director, Samstag Museum of Art, University of South Australia

M 0438 821 239

erica.green@unisa.edu.au