



Image: Sydney BALL, *Sentatrix*, 2007, acrylic on canvas, 142.5 x 183.5 cm, courtesy the artist, Sullivan + Strumpf Fine Art, Sydney and Charles Nodrum Gallery, Melbourne

Media Release

Sydney Sydney Ball: The Colour Paintings 1963–2007 at the Samstag Museum of Art

Australia's cultural media – and Melbourne in particular – never cease to call up the legend of Heide, and the artists associated with the Heidelberg School art movement. The push to constantly revisit and build on these stories has the objective of turning these ghosts from the past, into myth.

But Adelaide too has its great cultural stories and artists from the past whose achievements at different stages of Australia's growth to cultural maturity, are distinguished and have been influential on developments nationally.

One such artist is Sydney Ball. Born and raised in Adelaide, Sydney Ball is among Australia's most acclaimed abstract artists. He studied at the South Australian School of Art (SASA) before moving to America to study at the Art Students League of New York. Ball's influence on younger generations of artists is strong, especially in South Australia where in the mid-late 1960s, he taught at his former school, SASA. Today, Sydney Ball is represented in over 70 collections worldwide including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; The National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul; all state Australian galleries and many regional and university galleries.

Sydney Ball: The Colour Paintings 1963–2007 draws from public and private collections to review the artist's remarkable oeuvre. Curator Anne Loxley has selected works from all of Sydney Ball's colour periods – from Ball's flat colour beginnings of the *Canto* series (1964–66), to the general abstraction of the *Modular* (1968–69) and the *Stain* series (1971–79), and his return to flat colour with the *Structure* series (2002–present).

It is a timely opportunity, with Ball turning 75 in October this year, to see this exhibition at the Samstag Museum of Art, in Adelaide where it all started. *Sydney Ball: The Colour Paintings 1963–2007* at the Samstag Museum of Art marks the end of the exhibition's tour, following its viewing at the Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest, Sydney, and the McClelland Gallery & Sculpture Park, Melbourne.

On **Saturday 14 November at 3pm** join artist Sydney Ball in conversation with exhibition curator Anne Loxley in Gallery 1, followed by a special performance by Sight Specific Music. Musicians Chris Martin (piano), Derek Pascoe (tenor saxophone), and Jack Ward (cello) will give a one-off performance in response to Sydney Ball's *Stain* paintings. Refreshments served. Please RSVP 08 8302 0871 or samstagmuseum@unisa.edu.au. All welcome.

Sydney Ball: The Colour Paintings 1963–2007 will be accompanied by a comprehensive colour catalogue edited by Dinah Dysart and featuring an interview with the artist by Anne Loxley and an essay by Wendy Walker.

For further information about the *Sydney Ball: The Colour Paintings 1963 – 2007* exhibition and talk, contact Erica Green on 08 8302 0870 or visit unisa.edu.au/samstagmuseum

Exhibition continues until 29 January 2010. Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 11–5pm, Saturday and Sunday 2–5pm, or by appointment.



Sydney Ball: The Colour Paintings 1963–2007 is a touring exhibition of the Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest. 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.

Sight Specific Music has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.