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Samstag Celebrates SALA

Celebrating SALA, the Samstag Museum of Art premieres two major new exhibitions – Birth of the Cool and Geoff Wilson: Interrogated Landscape.

Birth of the Cool surveys the decade between 1963 and 1973 through the work of four painters: David Aspden, Sydney Ball, Michael Johnson and Dick Watkins and their common idiom: hard-edge, colour-field abstraction.

Birth of the Cool is curated by Terence Maloon, Director of the Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, who contributes an extensive essay to the e-publication available on the Samstag website.

Samstag Director Erica Green said, ‘In the last few years a reappraisal of the art and artists of the 1960s has been in full swing. Birth of the Cool will contribute to this reconsideration by presenting some of the finest, most dazzling works borrowed from private and institutional collections across Australia.’

The extensive survey exhibition Geoff Wilson: Interrogated Landscape recognises the lifetime achievement of this exceptional South Australian artist whose long career has, until now, remained largely uncelebrated in the public eye.

The exhibition is thoughtfully researched and curated by Barry Pearce, the celebrated former head curator of Australian art at the Art Gallery of New South Wales who is principal author of the accompanying scholarly book published by Samstag Museum of Art.

Samstag Director Erica Green said, ‘It has been our privilege to take an initiative that others, strangely, have overlooked; for Geoff Wilson’s accomplishments in a long life in art have escaped the institutional acknowledgement they warrant. In fact, Wilson’s significant body of accumulated work, and his long, sustained progress to maturity as an artist over an extraordinary career of seventy years, have remained unexamined with the critical weight and depth that a public art museum can provide’.

Both exhibitions coincide with SALA celebrations and the lead up to University of South Australia’s 25th anniversary in 2016. The exhibitions will be launched by Amanda Vanstone, Chair of Samstag Museum of Art Board on Thursday 16 July 2015.
Public Programs and Opening Hours

During the exhibitions the Museum is hosting public programs on Thursday evenings as part of the 'ART AFTER DARK West End' initiative, including:

• Thursday 6 August, 5:30pm — Geoff Wilson in conversation with exhibition curator Barry Pearce
• Thursday 3 September, 5:30pm — Birth of the Cool exhibition floor talk and jazz evening
• Thursday 13 August, 7pm — SALA at the Cinema Geoff Wilson will introduce his selection for Adelaide Cinémathèque at the Mercury Cinema, The Treasure of Sierra Madre, starring Humphrey Bogart, as a film that has inspired his practice.
• Thursday 27 August, 5pm — ART AFTER DARK West End, SALA walking tour

For more information and bookings please visit our website.

The exhibitions Birth of the Cool and Geoff Wilson: Interrogated Landscape, open 17 July and continue until 18 September 2015. Opening hours are Tuesday to Friday 11–5pm, Thursdays to 7pm and Saturday 2–5pm. The Samstag Museum of Art is located at 55 North Terrace, City West Campus, University of South Australia.

Birth of the Cool is a Samstag Museum of Art, University of South Australia, and Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University exhibition and following its Adelaide season will be presented at, Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University Canberra, 6 November 2015 until 13 December 2015. Geoff Wilson: Interrogated Landscape is a Samstag Museum of Art exhibition.

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