

Citation for Geoffrey Ronald Wilson OAM

Thursday 29 September 2022 at 12:30pm

Officiator: Ms Pauline Carr, Chancellor

Award being conferred: Doctor of the University (DUniv)

Citation delivered by: Professor Joanne Cys, Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Chancellor, the University of South Australia confers the Honorary Award of Doctor of the University to a person of eminence who has made a distinguished contribution to public service, or a field of academic endeavour or artistic pursuit. It is my pleasure to present Geoffrey Ronald Wilson OAM for the honorary award of Doctor of the University, in recognition of his distinguished service to the community.

Geoff Wilson is a South Australian artist and still an active painter, best known for his artistic expertise in portraying landscapes. He is very influential in the arts community and has a deep and wide knowledge of art and art history around the world.

Geoff was an avid art and history enthusiast at an early age and was educated by the late Jeffrey Smart, an Australian painter, former art teacher and patron of the South Australian School of Art. Along with Jeffrey Smart, Geoff was also mentored by the late Sir Ivor Hele, a prominent portrait artist.

Geoff worked at the South Australian School of Art over a 20-year period, initially as a Lecturer before being promoted to Head of Painting.

the South Australian School of Art is the oldest Art School in Australia and Geoff's work, reputation and influence played an important role in promoting its status and reputation, first as part of the South Australian College of Advanced Education and then as part of the University of South Australia.

Throughout his career Geoff has held major exhibitions in South Australia at the Art Gallery of South Australia, Samstag Museum of Art, and BMG Art which represents major Australian contemporary and modern Australian Artists

His work is held in various public and private collections, including the Art Galleries of South Australia and Western Australia, the BHP House Collection, Latrobe University, the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra, the Newcastle Region Art Gallery, New Parliament House, the S.H. Ervin Gallery in Sydney, the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in Hobart and the Universities of South Australia and Adelaide.

In 1947, while still a student at the South Australian School of Art Geoff 's skills as a landscape painter saw him awarded the RSASA Olive Dutton Green Prize for landscape painting for *Mile End Goods Shed*. He was the recipient of many other awards over the years such as the Cornell Prize of the Contemporary Art Society of South Australia, for *Coorong Landscape*, the Whyalla Art Prize, for *Loading Devices Across the River* and the Fleurieu Vista Prize, for *Monument to the South East Freeway*.

Geoff was a founding member of Friends of South Australian School of Art and has made many valuable voluntary contributions to the success of this group since it was first established in 2008.

His support for the Friends of SASA has provided a framework for the promotion and support of visual artists from the SASA. He has also, along with other members, fostered links between the SASA, the arts community, businesses, and arts organisations.

Geoff's passion for art and involvement in cultural life, as an educator and artist, is a strong testimony to his standing in the community. Through his generous commitment of time and knowledge in mentoring fellow artists, he has been an instrumental influence on many. He highly regarded by all who know him and who have been influenced by his masterly artistic knowledge and practice.

Geoff is an outstanding ambassador promoting artistic work and ability, and in turn, he is a remarkable ambassador for his field.

Chancellor: On behalf of the University of South Australia, I am pleased to present Geoffrey Ronald Wilson OAM for the honorary award of Doctor of the University, in recognition of his distinguished service to the community.