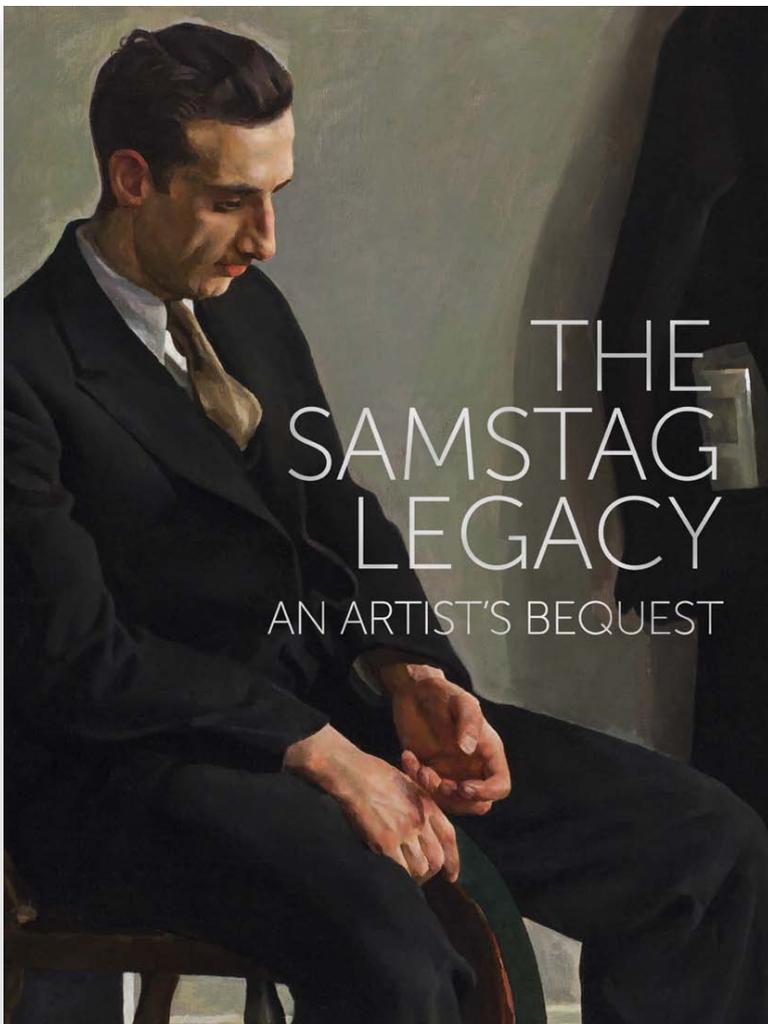


## Meet the Samstags

A new, scholarly biography chronicles the forgotten art of a great American philanthropist.

When Anne and Gordon Samstag migrated from the United States to Australia in 1961, this intensely private couple left few clues as to why. Had it not been for the multi-million dollar bequest revealed upon Gordon's death in Florida, in 1990 — and this groundbreaking book — a remarkable story of American philanthropy, ancestry and culture would have been lost to posterity.



In their painstakingly researched biography *The Samstag Legacy: An Artist's Bequest*, Lea Rosson DeLong and Ross Wolfe chart the lives and careers of these two enigmatic philanthropists, offering unique insight into their motivations, their sixteen years of living and working in Australia, their eventual return to America and the bequest that led to establishment of the Anne & Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarships at the University of South Australia in 1991.

A particular objective of the book is to increase interest among American scholars in Gordon Samstag who forged a reputation in the 1930s as a 'sharp-eyed realist' painter of the American Scene, but whose achievements have largely been lost from view in his country of birth. Among many accomplishments, he painted an ensemble of significant public murals for the Roosevelt administration's New Deal program.

Gordon Samstag, born in 1906, came from a distinguished line of high-achieving, 19th century European Jewish economic migrants. Anne's pioneering forbears arrived in Massachusetts in 1630 with the legendary Winthrop migration and her father Charles Henry Davis was a tycoon who controlled turn-of-the-century coalmines in Harlan County, Kentucky.

The book also offers new perspectives on the dynamic 1960s Australian artworld during the Samstags' time there, including Gordon's years working professionally at the South Australian School of Art.

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### The Samstag Scholarships

The Samstag Scholarships enable significant numbers of Australian visual artists to develop their skills and abilities studying overseas at any institution of their choosing. After 25 years, Anne and Gordon's historic in-perpetuity gift still ranks as one of the very great bequests to visual arts education in Australia.

In 2007, the Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art was named in honour of the Samstags, when it opened at the University of South Australia.

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### The Samstag Legacy: An Artist's Bequest

Editor Ross Wolfe

Essays by Lea Rosson DeLong and Ross Wolfe

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CELEBRATING  
**25**  
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