

# Media Release

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## **STUNNING NEW ART DOCUMENTARY on three times ARCHIBALD PRIZE WINNER previews at the Chauvel**

Approaching 90 years of age, Sydney artist **Eric Smith** has been preparing for his next exhibition for the past twenty years.

Filmed over a two-year period, the filmmakers captured the passion, struggles, humour and ambition of this ageing artist who guarantees that his "next painting is his best yet." Commenting on his long anticipated final exhibition, octogenarian Eric Smith declares he wants "to go out with a bang, not a whimper."

Leonardo Da Vinci is quoted as saying "Art is never finished, only abandoned" and this rings true for this celebrated but long forgotten abstract artist **Eric Smith**. Known for destroying his artwork, the artist has been out of the spotlight for twenty years and it doesn't look like the next exhibition will ever happen.

Featuring interviews with **John Olsen** and **Peter Sculthorpe**, this new television hour documentary **ERIC SMITH: NOT FINISHED YET** follows the story of a great Australian artist and his unending passion and optimism for his art and life. It is a story about an ageing artist's ultimate desire to defy his encroaching sense of mortality and against all odds, create one final grand exhibition.

The film also follows the journey of daughter Barbara and granddaughter Kirrilly attempting to restore Eric's legacy, and embarking on a road trip to track down his forgotten paintings held in collections across Australia. Seeking out his **Archibald Prize winning** portraits, his **Blake Prize winning** religious works and his grand abstracts, a discovery is made of a body of work that celebrates a lifetime of dedication and a love of painting.

Director (and granddaughter) Kirrilly Brentnall comments: "It has been a joyous experience making a film about my beloved artist grandfather. It has taken me four years to finally finish the film. But I still have one up on Eric. It took him 20 years to have an exhibition!"

For further information about the documentary film and the artist and to access a full press kit and production photos, please log onto: [www.ericsmithartist.com.au](http://www.ericsmithartist.com.au)

An invitation only preview screening of ERIC SMITH: NOT FINISHED YET is taking place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of March from 6pm at the Chauvel Cinema, Paddington. Media please RSVP to [contact.ericsmith@ericsmith.com.au](mailto:contact.ericsmith@ericsmith.com.au)

DVDS with extended interviews are available online at [www.ericsmithartist.com.au](http://www.ericsmithartist.com.au) (RRP\$34.95)

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