

MEDIA RELEASE

ERIC SMITH EXHIBITION *NOT FINISHED YET*



Opening: Wednesday 6th May, 6-8pm
With opening address by John Olsen

Exhibition Closes: Sunday 24th May

Global Gallery

5 Comber St. Paddington Sydney 2021

6th – 24th May, 2009

Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 6pm

Sunday 12pm to 4pm

'I feel painting is a view of the world from the heart.' - Eric Smith

Multi-award winning Sydney artist Eric Smith, at 89 years of age, will be presenting his first exhibition in twenty years this May at the Global Gallery in Paddington. Three-times winner of the **Archibald Prize**, and multiple winner of the prestigious Wynne, Sulman and Blake prizes, Smith is one of Australia's most awarded and recognised artists working today. Declaring that he would rather "*go out with a bang rather than a whimper*", the exhibition will be officially opened by colleague and old friend **John Olsen** and is set to be a landmark event on the 2009 artistic calendar.

Eric Smith was born in Brunswick, Melbourne, in 1919. Currently living in Woollahra, Sydney, Eric continues to paint daily in defiance of his age. Eric Smith was one of Australia's leading 20th century pioneers in the Australian Abstract art scene, participating in the radical **Direction One** exhibition held in 1956, alongside his renowned contemporaries Robert Klippel, John Olsen, John Passmore & William Rose.

Famed for his vibrant use of colour and richly textured layering of paint, many of his best known artworks are found in the collections of national and state galleries of Australia as well as numerous private and international collections.

This new exhibition at the Global Gallery represents the culmination of many years of hard work. Over the past two decades, even as he approaches 90, Smith continues to break new ground as an innovator and experimenter, searching for new ways to express on canvas his unique perception of an ever-changing world. With this his first public exhibition since 1989, Smith is "*thrilled to at last show what I have been striving for over the past twenty years.*"

This long awaited exhibition will feature Smith's signature sensual use of paint displayed over two large rooms with a third showing a range of smaller drawings and pastels. Smith promises that these new works will "*explore both the joys of life and alternatively the sorrows of the world through an explosion of colour.*"

The opening night will be filmed as part of an hour-long documentary currently being produced about the artist. Charting Smith's creative process and quest to mount this exhibition the documentary has been filmed over a two-year period. Also exploring the Australian Art scene from the late fifties to today, the film intertwines history, memory, art & passion and includes interviews with John Olsen, Leonard French, Barry Pearce, Peter Sculthorpe and many others.

This new exhibition **ERIC SMITH – NOT FINISHED YET** will be a unique and historic opportunity for the Australian public to view the recent work of one of Australia's most celebrated elders of the art world.



High resolution stills of the artist and the paintings available for download & publication at:
<http://www.ericsmithartist.com.au/exhibition>

Video Footage of the artist at work also available for viewing at:
<http://www.ericsmithartist.com.au/documentary>

Media for further information & access to broadcast quality video please contact:
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