



Pages 1 through 2 redacted for the following reasons:

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Folios 1-2 are not in the public interest to release.

RTI RELEASE

"MY IDEA OF A GOOD PICTURE IS ONE THAT'S IN FOCUS AND OF

Page 1 of 1

From: Alison Lee [alison.lee@qag.qld.gov.au] on behalf of Andrew Clark [andrew.clark@qag.qld.gov.au]  
Sent: Thursday, 11 September 2008 3:17 PM  
To: Leigh Tabrett  
Cc: Ann Maree Potts  
Subject: Summary of 'American Masterpieces from the Met'

Attachments: Summary of American Masterpieces.doc  
Dear Leigh

Sorry I missed you when you phoned earlier this afternoon. As requested, please find attached a summary of 'American Masterpieces from the Met 1880-1929: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York'.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide you with any further information.

Regards

Andrew

ANDREW CLARK | Deputy Director, Programming and Corporate Services  
T: + 61 (0)7 3840 7288 | F: + 61 (0)7 3840 7164  
E: andrew.clark@qag.qld.gov.au

QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY | GALLERY OF MODERN ART

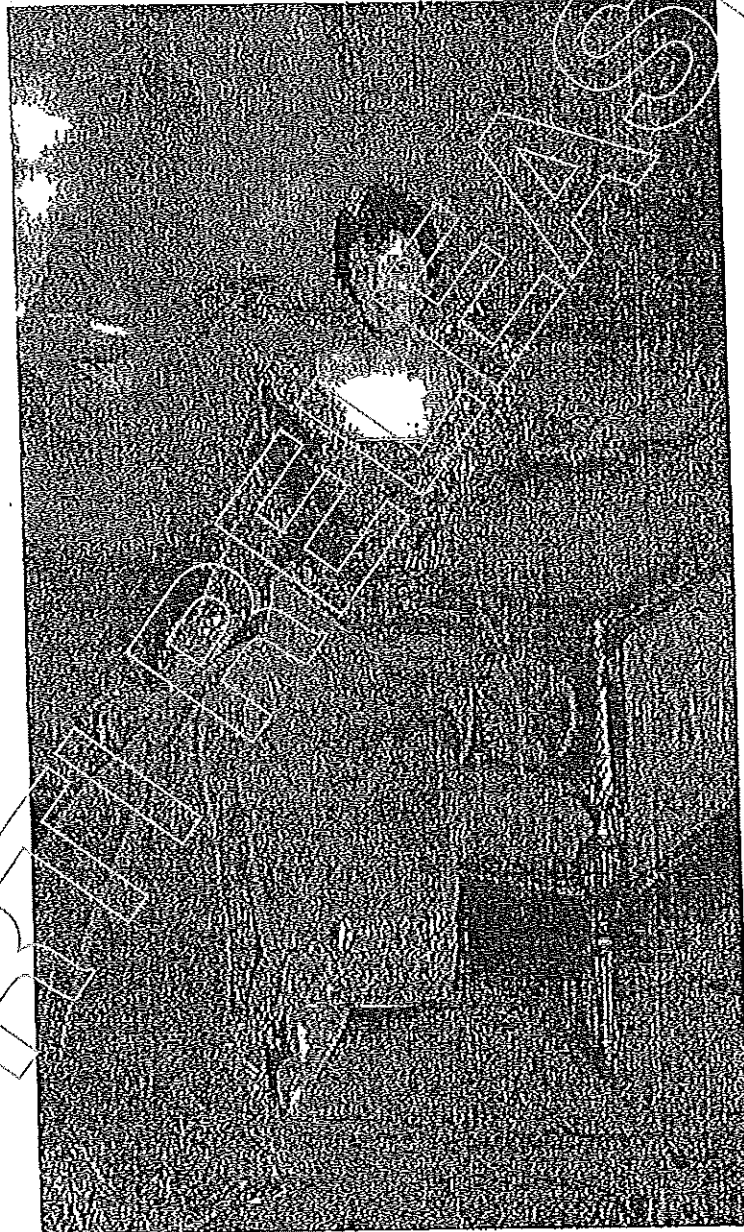
Stanley Place, South Brisbane, Queensland Australia  
PO Box 3686, South Brisbane, Queensland 4101 Australia  
[www.qag.qld.gov.au](http://www.qag.qld.gov.au) | [www.australianartbooks.com.au](http://www.australianartbooks.com.au)



# American Masterpieces

FROM THE MET 1880-1929

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

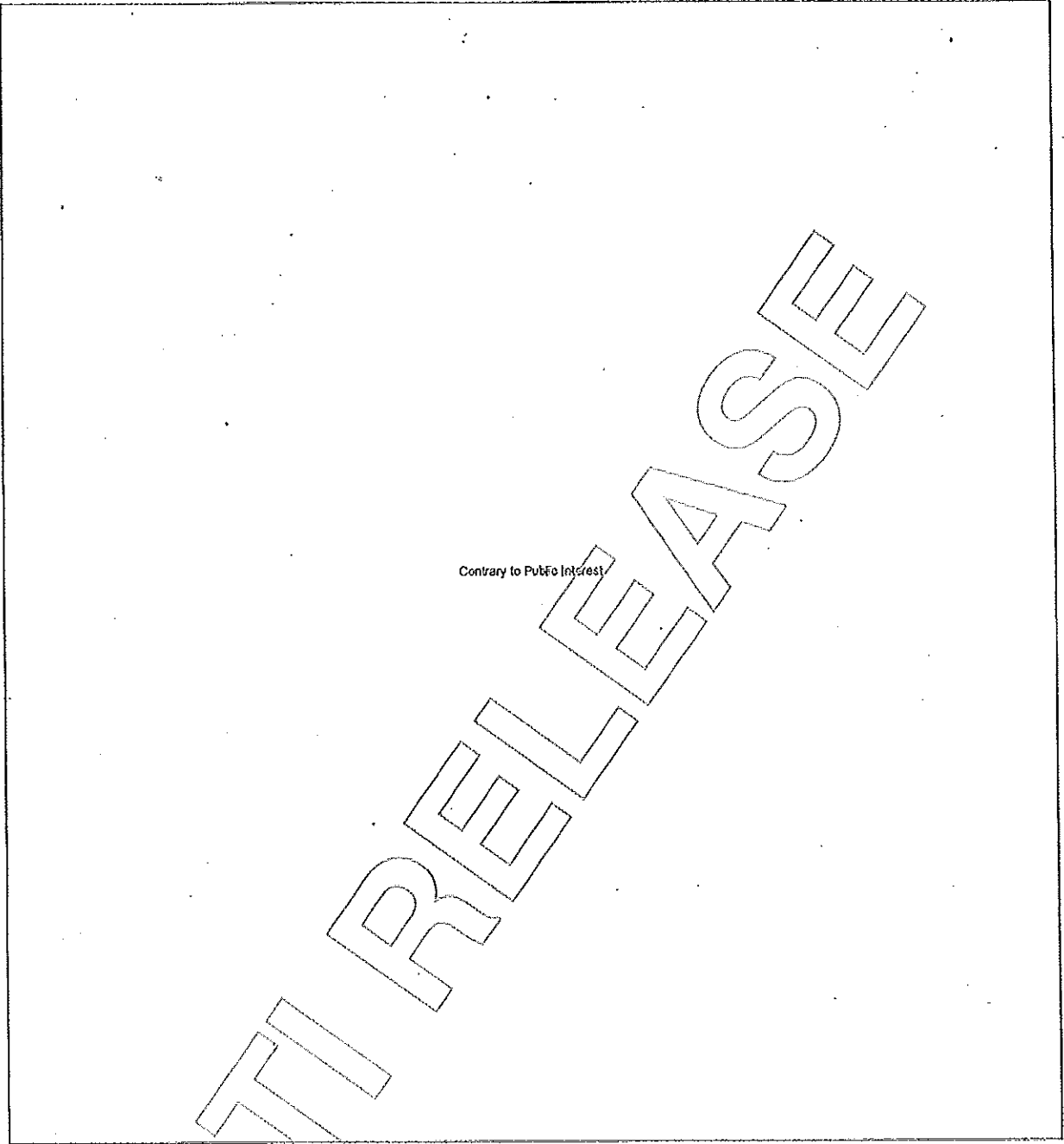


QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY

30 May - 20 September 2009

## EXHIBITION SUMMARY

- 30 May – 20 September 2009.
- The exhibition will be exclusive to Brisbane.
- Queensland Art Gallery is the only venue in the world to be offered this exhibition of paintings from the Metropolitan Museum of Art – one of the world's most prestigious art museums.
- It is the first exhibition of its kind to come to Australia.
- The exhibition will run for 114 days. The season compares with 'Andy Warhol' (126 days) and 'Picasso & his collection' (98 days).
- The season will capture secondary and tertiary students for terms 1 and 2, a large audience for major international exhibition.
- It will include school holidays (27 June – 12 July) which have been demonstrated as a peak visitation period.
- The exhibition will coincide with the season of the Paris Opera Ballet making its only Australian performances at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, offering major national and international joint destination marketing opportunities.
- The local, regional, national and international marketing campaign will include a comprehensive tourism campaign, in collaboration with tourism partners such as Tourism Queensland and Brisbane Marketing.
- Australian audiences have never before had an opportunity to see the work of eminent American artists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries consolidated in a single, thematic exhibition.
- The exhibition has been specially curated for Brisbane by the distinguished scholar H. Barbara Weinberg, the Alice Pratt Brown Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- The exhibition will present 71 paintings from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, including works by James McNeill Whistler, Mary Cassatt and John Singer Sargent.
- The exhibition will include works by senior Australian artists of the same period, whose work demonstrates affinities with those of their American counterparts. Several iconic works from major Australian collections will be incorporated, including works by Tom Roberts, Charles Conder, John Russell and Arthur Streeton.
- Organised by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York in collaboration with Queensland Art Gallery and Art Exhibitions Australia.



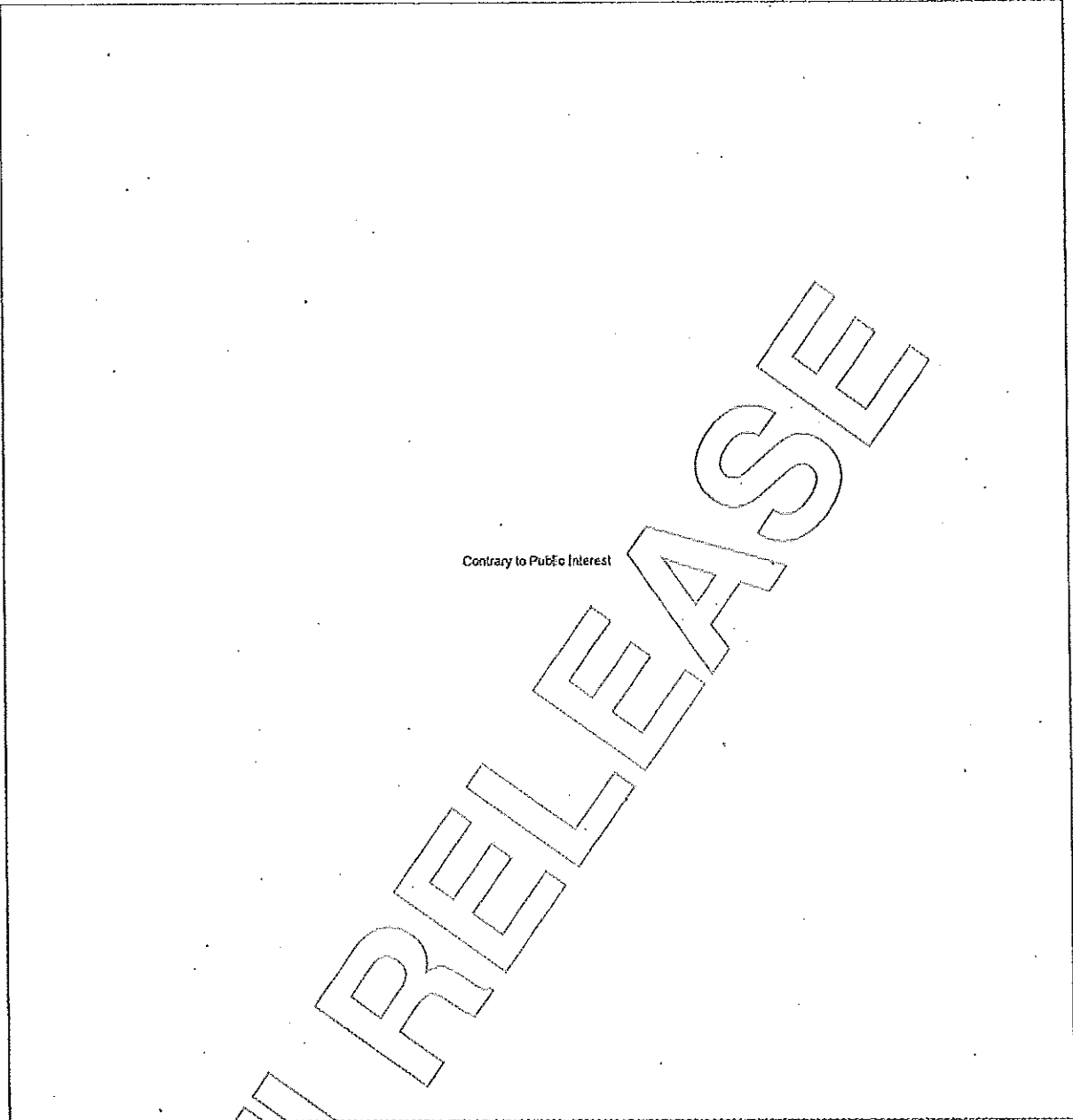
Contrary to Public Interest

## FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY

'American Masterpieces 1880–1929 from the Met' is part of the Gallery's five-year strategy to contribute to the Queensland economy by increasing cultural tourism, as detailed in the Gallery's Strategic Plan.

Specifically, the Gallery plans to:

- Present a program of major exhibitions with wide audience appeal, including those organised by the Gallery, as well as national touring exhibitions and world-class international exhibitions exclusive to Queensland.
- Provide an economic benefit to Queensland through the presentation of major exhibitions and associated tourism.
- Expand and strengthen important partnerships and alliances between the Gallery and key national and international museums and arts touring organisations in relation to opportunities to co-organise or host major exhibitions.
- Undertake strategic marketing and collaborate with tourism sector partners to promote the Gallery and its exhibitions and programs to key local, intrastate, interstate and international audience targets.



Contrary to Public Interest

**Renaye Rostagno**

---

**From:** Patrice Fogarty  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 September 2008 3:44 PM  
**To:** Renaye Rostagno  
**Subject:** FW: Funding for QAG MET Exhibition

**Importance:** High  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

**Attachments:** Doc1.doc



Doc1.doc (122 KB)

Hi Renaye

Would you please draft these letters as a priority - thank you and apologies on the urgency.

Attached is some background to inform the letters - please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks Renaye.

Patrice Fogarty | Director | Events Coordination | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | Ph 07 3406 5652 | Fx 07 3224 4066 | PO Box 15186 City East Q 4002

Please consider the environment before printing this email

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Karyn Brinkley  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 September 2008 12:22 PM  
**To:** leigh.tabrett@arts.qld.gov.au  
**Cc:** Patrice Fogarty  
**Subject:** RE: Funding for QAG MET Exhibition

Excellent, thanks. We need to write a letter from the Prem to the Min and copy Michael Denton, confirming those arrangements. Is there any info you can have your office send us quickly about what the MET Exhibition is, so we can write a coherent letter?

Thanks heaps,  
KB

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Leigh Tabrett [mailto:Leigh.Tabrett@arts.qld.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 September 2008 12:18 PM  
**To:** Karyn Brinkley  
**Subject:** RE: Funding for QAG MET Exhibition

Yes, we are, and Mr Smith has said yes

LT.

Leigh Tabrett PSM | Deputy Director-General | Arts Queensland L 16 | 111 George St Brisbane QLD 4001 Ph (07) 3224 4488 | F (07) 3406 2150  
W: www.arts.qld.gov.au

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Karyn Brinkley [mailto:karyn.brinkley@premier.qld.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 September 2008 12:15 PM  
**To:** Leigh Tabrett  
**Cc:** Patrice Fogarty





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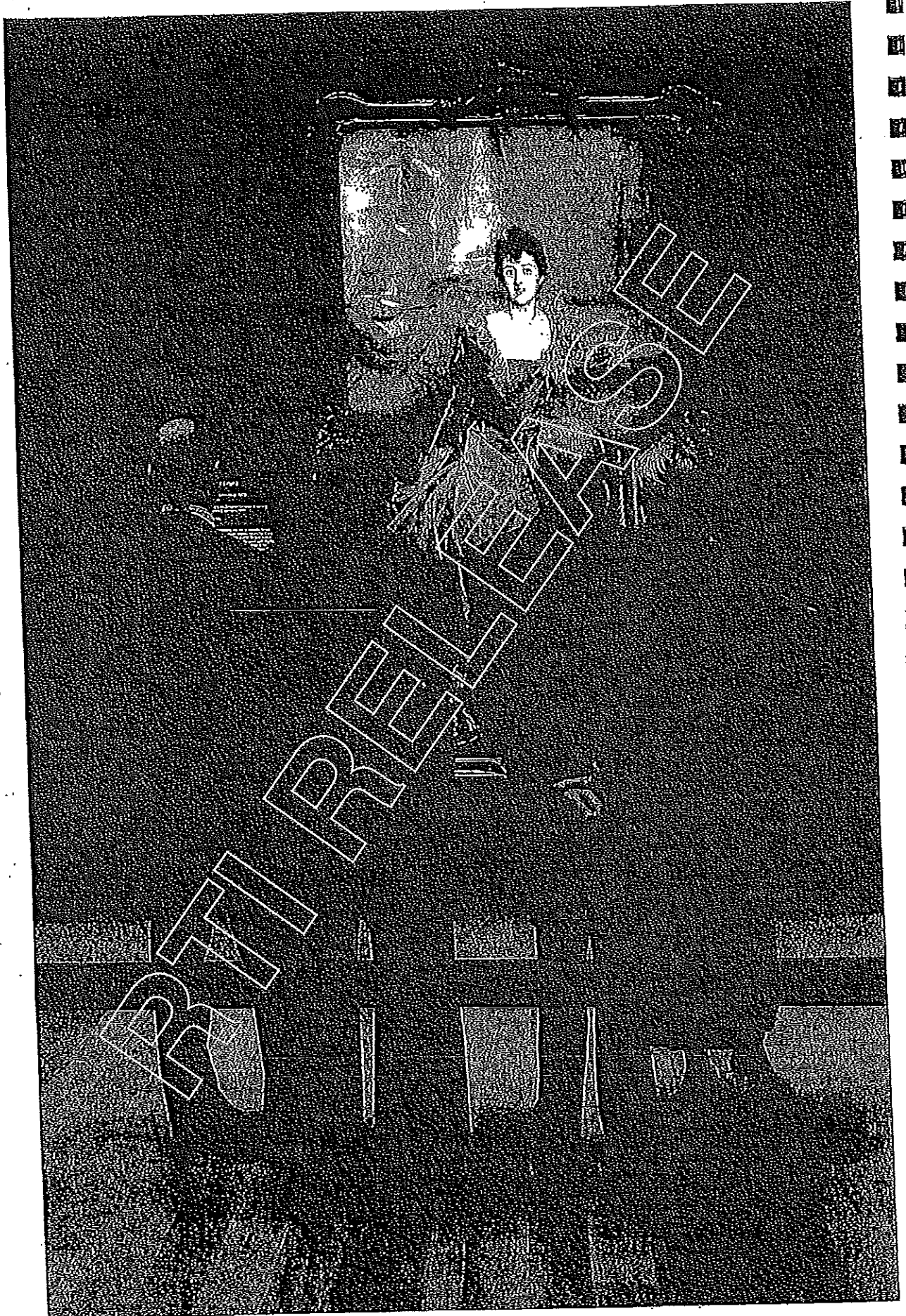
AMERICAN  
IMPRESSIONISM  
& REALISM

A LANDMARK EXHIBITION FROM THE MET  
THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK

30 May – 20 September 2009

**Queensland Art Gallery**

EXHIBITION REPORT



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The exhibition was organised by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, in collaboration with the Queensland Art Gallery and Art Exhibitions Australia.

Cover: John White Alexander / *Repose (detail)*, 1895 / Anonymous GB, 1950 / 1990.224 / Collection: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York / Image © The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
Guests viewing John Singer Sargent's *Mrs Hugh Hamersley* 1892 / Photograph: Natasha Harth

# Key facts

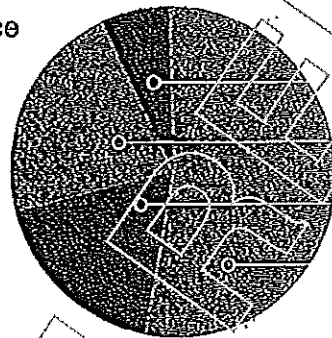
- 'American Impressionism and Realism: A Landmark Exhibition from the Met', an exclusive-to-Brisbane exhibition from one of the world's most prestigious art museums, was held from 30 May to 20 September 2009 at the Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
- More than 252 000 people, including 25,000 children, visited the Gallery during the exhibition, which included the free Met Resource Lounge and Met for Kids Activity space. Of these visitors, 104 604 purchased exhibition tickets.
- 83% of the exhibition's visitors came to the Queensland Art Gallery specifically to see 'American Impressionism and Realism' and 47% were visitors to Brisbane.
- More than 7000 people visited The Met Up Late on Friday nights from 31 July to 18 September 2009.
- 634 tours were conducted by volunteer guides with 15 077 participants.
- 8809 visitors attended in school and other groups.
- The Met Up Late was attended by 7354 people.
- Of 30 films, 2836 people attended the 126 screenings.
- Over 550 guests attended the opening event at the Watermill, Queensland Art Gallery on Friday 29 May 2009.
- The 'American Impressionism and Realism' afternoon symposium was attended by 185 people.
- 736 Gallery Members attended special 'American Impressionism and Realism' programs during the exhibition period
- The exhibition publication sold a total of 5253 copies. A further 156 copies were also distributed nationally to the book trade through Thames and Hudson.
- Approximately 60 000 visitors viewed the online resources for The Met, with a total of over 250 000 pages viewed.
- The online virtual tour logged approximately 2850 users, with an average viewing time of almost 10 minutes per user.

## Survey results

Following are key findings from visitors to 'American Impressionism and Realism':

- The average age of adult visitors was 39 years.
- 98% of attendees enjoyed the exhibition.
- 19% were first time visitors to the Gallery.
- 83% of visitors came to the Gallery specifically to see 'American Impressionism and Realism' and 33% of visitors to Brisbane came specifically for the exhibition.
- 53% of attendees were from Brisbane, 19% were from regional Queensland, 21% were from Interstate and 7% from overseas.

### Place of residence



Overseas 7%

Interstate 21%

Regional Qld 19%

Brisbane Metro 53%

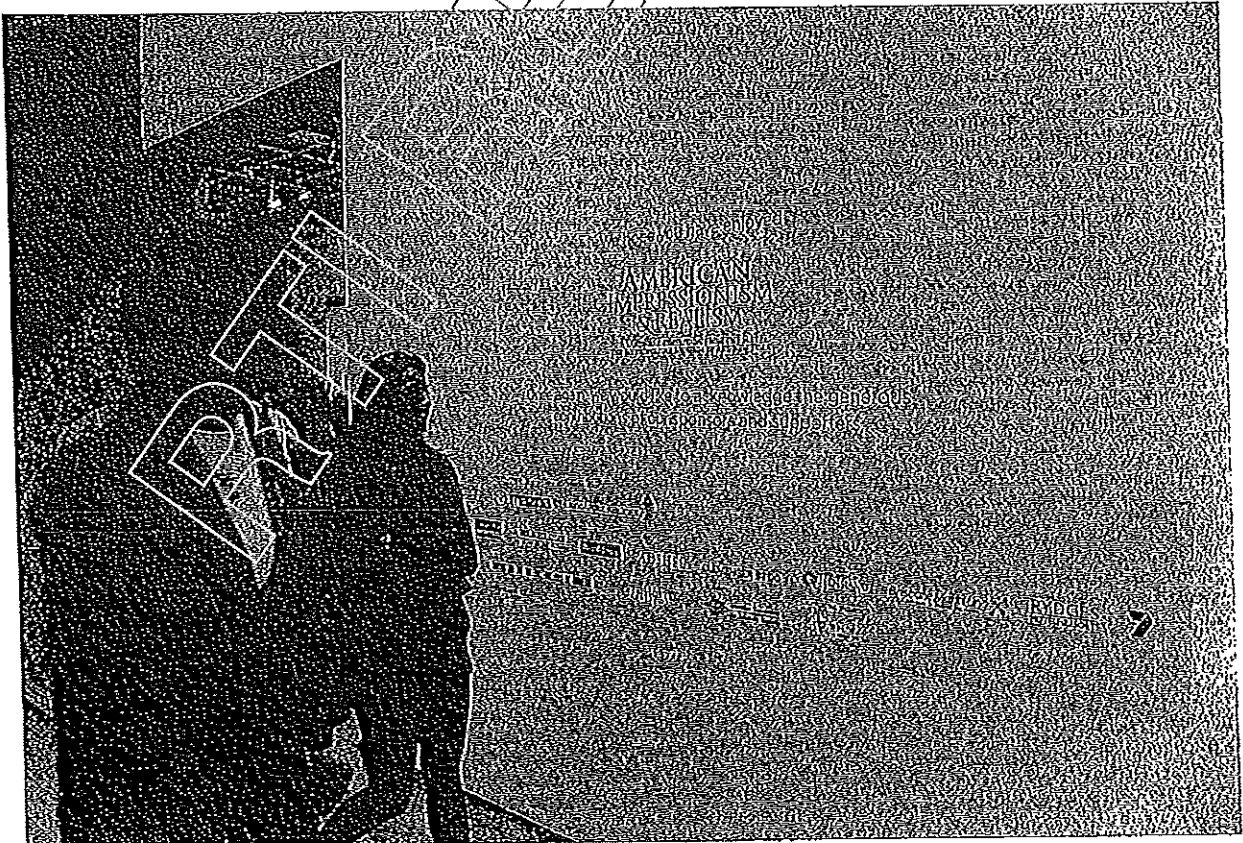
# Sponsors

The Queensland Art Gallery acknowledges the generous support of Government, business, tourism and media sponsors.

The Queensland Government was the Presenting Sponsor of 'American Impressionism and Realism', enabling the Gallery to secure this unique cultural event for Queensland.

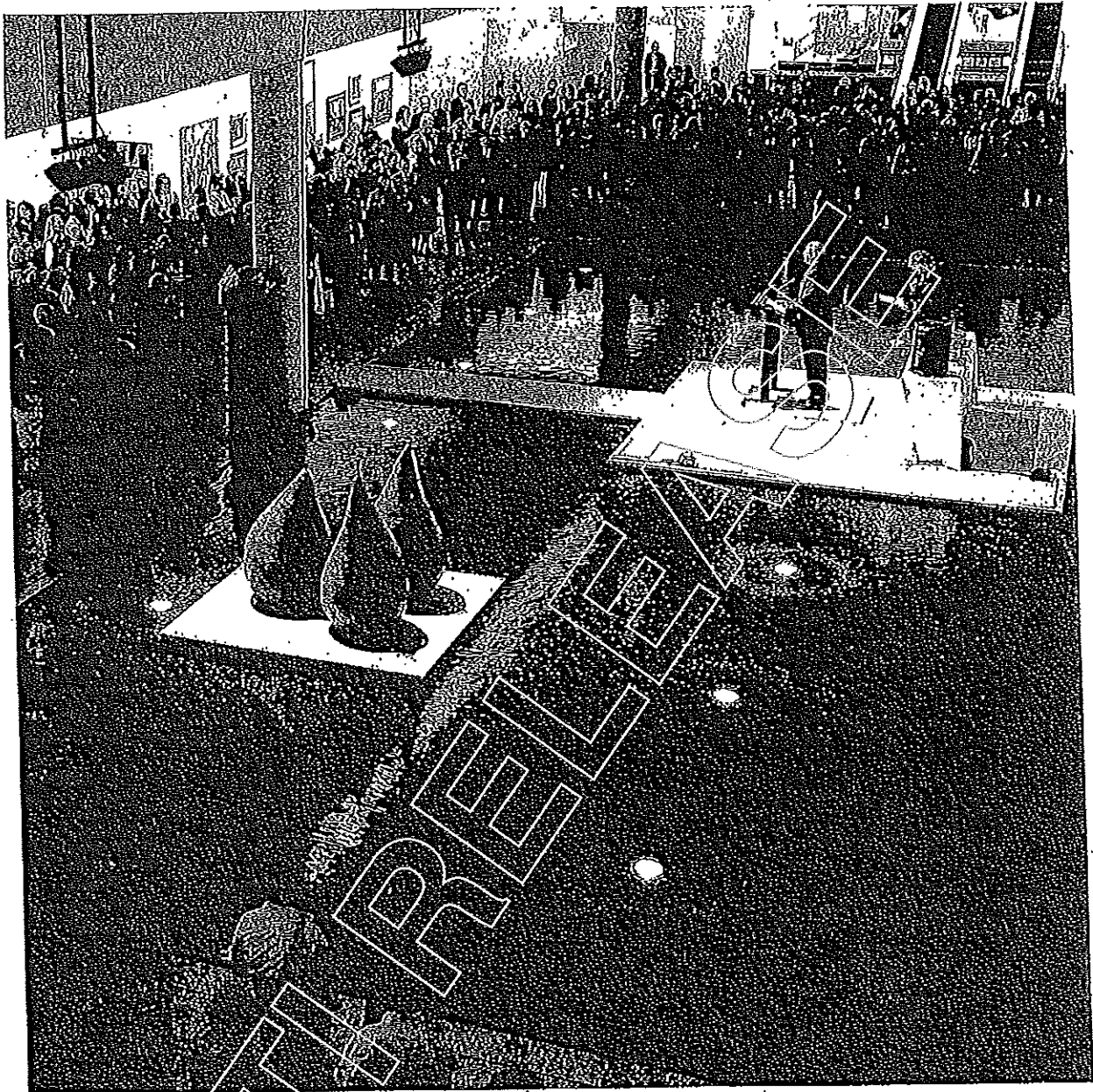
Following their generous contribution to 'Picasso & his collection', we again thank and acknowledge Principal Sponsor Mazda Australia and Principal Donor Singapore Airlines.

Our Major and Supporting Sponsors have also previously supported exclusive international exhibitions organised by the Gallery and Art Exhibitions Australia. The sponsor group assists us to promote the exhibition and to continue to develop audiences. We thank the Seven Network, News Limited (The Courier-Mail, The Australian and Herald Sun), Austereo, Adshel, Clemenger BBDO, Tourism Queensland, Brisbane Marketing, ourbrisbane.com, and new sponsors Rydges Hotels and Resorts and Greater Union Birch Carroll and Coyle.



The exit signage acknowledging the support of sponsors / Photograph: Natasha Harth





Mr Doug Dickson, Managing Director, Mazda Australia, speaks at the Official Opening of 'American Impressionism and Realism', 29 May 2009 / Photograph: Malasha Harth

# Exhibition

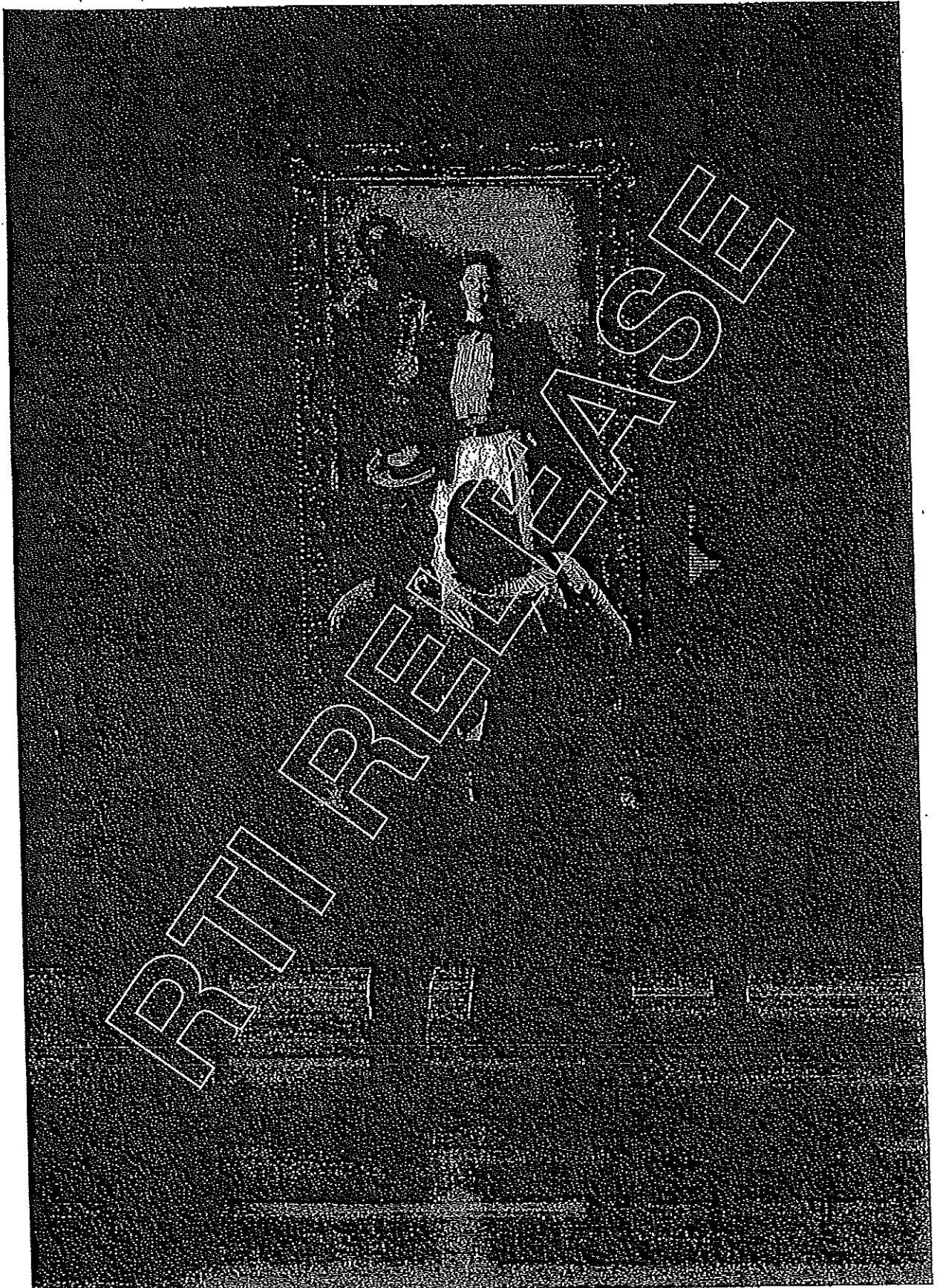
'American Impressionism and Realism: A Landmark Exhibition from the Met' included light-filled landscapes and seascapes, magnificent portraiture and images reflecting aspects of modern life — leisure, cities, and intimate depictions of women and children by the American Impressionists, who came of age during the 1890s; and the Realists — especially the group known as the Ashcan School — who challenged them after 1900.

These works are usually displayed in the permanent galleries of the Metropolitan Museum's American Wing, the renovation of which enabled such an unusually large number of major American paintings to be lent for this unique exhibition.

Fascinated by the parallels between American and Australian painters at this time, the exhibition's chief curator Dr H Barbara Weinberg, Alice Pratt Brown Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture at the Metropolitan Museum, initiated a discussion to include a judicious selection of Australian works in the exhibition. Highlighting how Australian artists responded to key artistic developments of the time, 30 iconic Australian paintings were included, by artists such as Tom Roberts, Charles Conder, Frederick McCubbin and Rupert Bunny.



Guests viewing the paintings in the 'Countryside Abroad' room of the exhibition / Photograph: Ray Fulton



Gallery Members view John Singer Sargent's *Mr and Mrs W. Phillips Stokes* 1897 at the 'American Impressionism and Realism' Members exhibition preview / Photograph: Malisha Harth

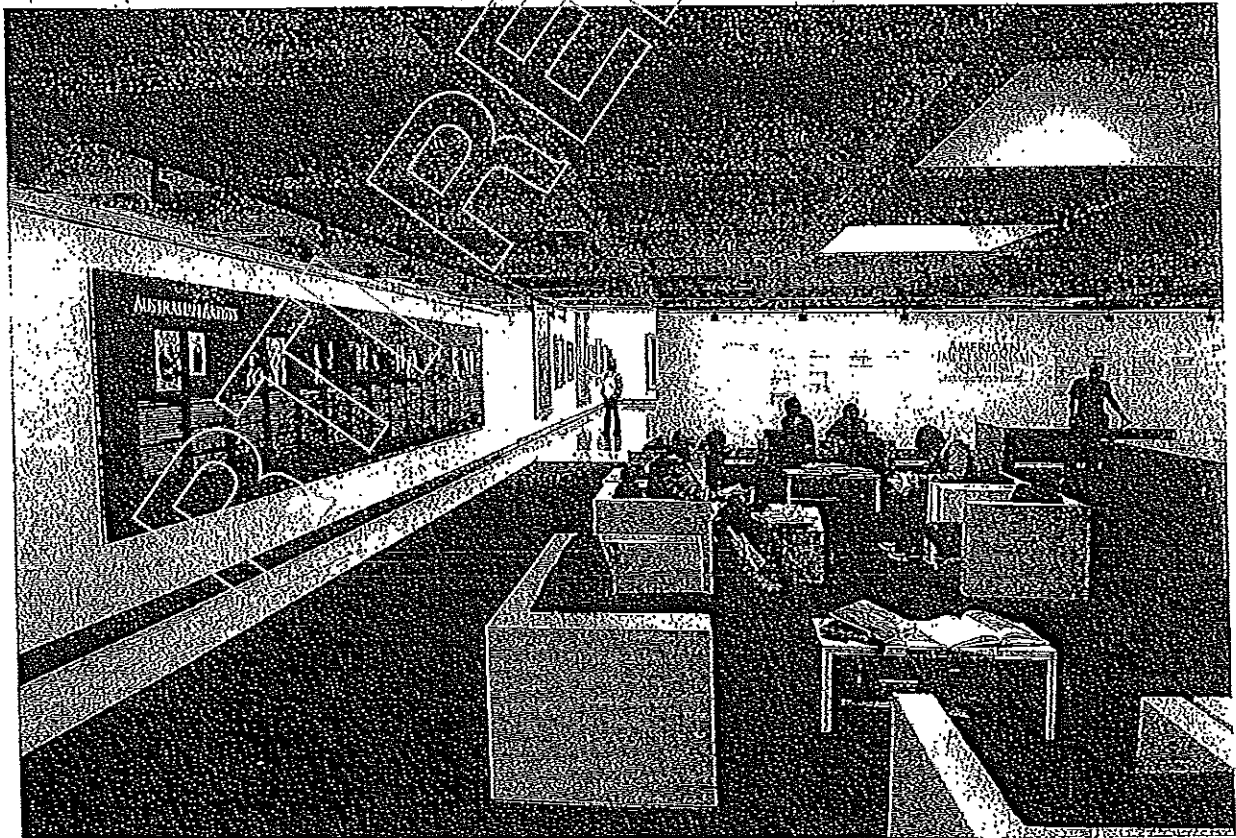
Many wonderful comparisons were made, including the charming images of leisure at the seaside by William Merritt Chase and Charles Conder. Relatively sparse compositions and decorative parasols signalled the influence of Japanese aesthetics, as well as suggesting new leisure possibilities for the privileged modern woman.

The works were grouped according to key themes that consistently engaged these artists — the countryside at home and abroad, cities and urban life, leisure, domestic life, portraiture and studios. In each of the thematic areas, a selection of Australian works demonstrated similar responses to artistic and social developments in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Each room was painted in a subtle accent colour inspired by the paintings, and the exhibition was complemented by a refined aesthetic in all aspects of its exhibition and commercial spaces as well as promotional material.

The display of 'American Impressionism and Realism: A Landmark Exhibition from the Met' was greatly augmented by the refurbishment of the Australian galleries with the support of the Queensland Government for new timber floor surfaces, large rooms and state-of-the-art lighting, which replaced the dark carpets and compressed sight lines of the previous spaces. This refurbishment provided an ongoing benefit, transforming the spaces for the reinstallation of the Australian galleries at the conclusion of the exhibition.



Dr H Barbara Weisberg's tour at the VIP Preview, May 2009 / Photograph: Ray Fulton



Top: The 'CR's' room of the exhibition / Photograph: Nilasha Harth  
Visitors reading in the exhibition Resource Lounge in July 2009 / Photograph: Ray Fulton



Foundation Members enjoy dinner in the Walvernia in May 2008 / Photograph: Natasha Harth  
Premier and Minister for the Arts, The Honourable Anna Bligh, to, at the Official Opening of 'American Impressionism and Realism' in May 2009 / Photograph: Natasha Harth

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# Opening events

## Foundation 30th Anniversary Dinner / Met Preview

An exclusive black-tie dinner to view the exhibition and to mark the 30th anniversary of the Queensland Art Gallery Foundation was held in the Watermill at the Queensland Art Gallery on Thursday 28 May 2009.

This event was attended by 220 Foundation Members and guests including Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley, AO, Governor of Queensland and Patron of the Queensland Art Gallery Foundation. Special guests included exhibition curator Dr H Barbara Weinberg and Mr Michael Weinberg.

Entertainment was provided by DJ Archie Jacobs and Tyrohe Noonan and his band Pallmpsest.

## Media Preview

This event was held at the Queensland Art Gallery on the morning of Friday 29 May 2009.

Over 130 representatives of local and national media and representatives of exhibition sponsors attended the preview. A tour of the exhibition was led by exhibition curator, Dr H Barbara Weinberg and Lynne Seear, Deputy Director, Curatorial and Collection Development, QAG.

A light lunch followed in the Sculpture Courtyard.

## Official Opening

The Official Opening of 'American Impressionism and Realism: A Landmark Exhibition from the Met' was held in the Watermill at the Queensland Art Gallery on the evening of Friday, 29 May 2009. Over 550 guests attended this event.

The Honourable Anna Bligh, MP, Premier of Queensland, officially opened the exhibition. Dr H Barbara Weinberg attended with Mr Michael Weinberg. Mr Doug Dickson, Managing Director, Mazda Australia, the exhibition's principal sponsor, also spoke.

Entertainment was provided by DJ Archie Jacobs.

## Sponsor Dinner

The Sponsor Dinner, hosted by Art Exhibitions Australia, was held in the Long Gallery at the Gallery of Modern Art following the Official Opening.

Over 160 guests attended this event, including, The Honourable Anna Bligh, MP, Premier of Queensland; and the Honourable John Brumby, MP, Premier of Victoria.

The dinner MC was Channel Seven's *Great South East* presenter Sofie Formica. Speakers were Mr Robert Mackay, Chairman, Art Exhibitions Australia; Senator the Honourable John Hogg, President of the Senate; Mr Subhas Menon, Regional Vice President South West Pacific, Singapore Airlines; and Dr Mahrukh Tarapor Associate Director for Exhibitions and Director for International Affairs, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

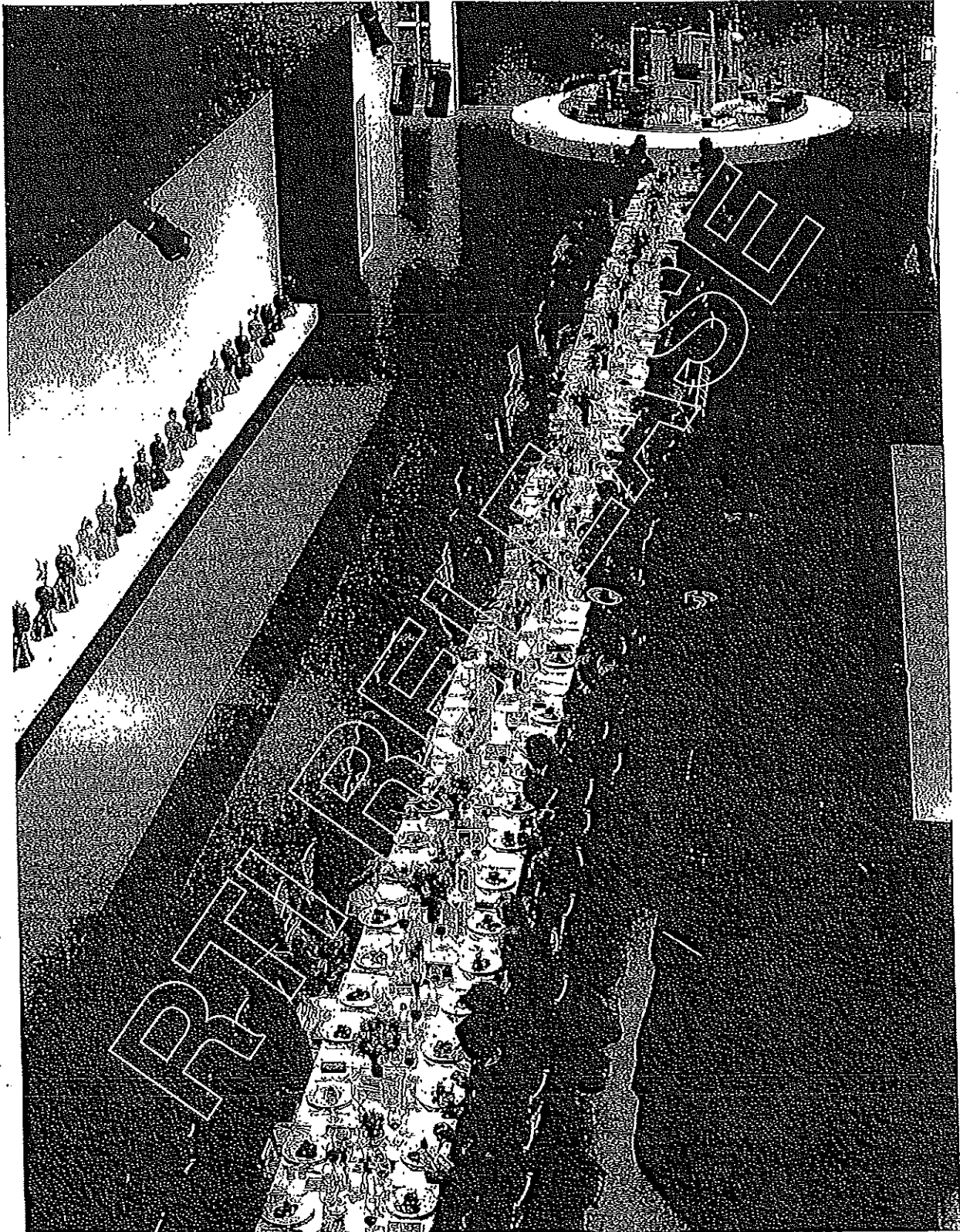
Guests included Ms Ute Collinet, Administrator of the Geneva Office of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; Mr Tim Fairfax, President, Queensland Art Gallery Foundation and Mrs Gina Fairfax; Dr H Barbara Weinberg, Curator, American Paintings & Sculpture, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Mr Michael Weinberg; Mr Geoff Dixon, Chairman, Queensland Events Corporation; Mr Alastair Doak, National Public Relations Manager, Mazda Australia; and representatives of all exhibition sponsors.

Entertainment was provided by jazz group Misinterpretato, and singer Kate Miller-Heidke.

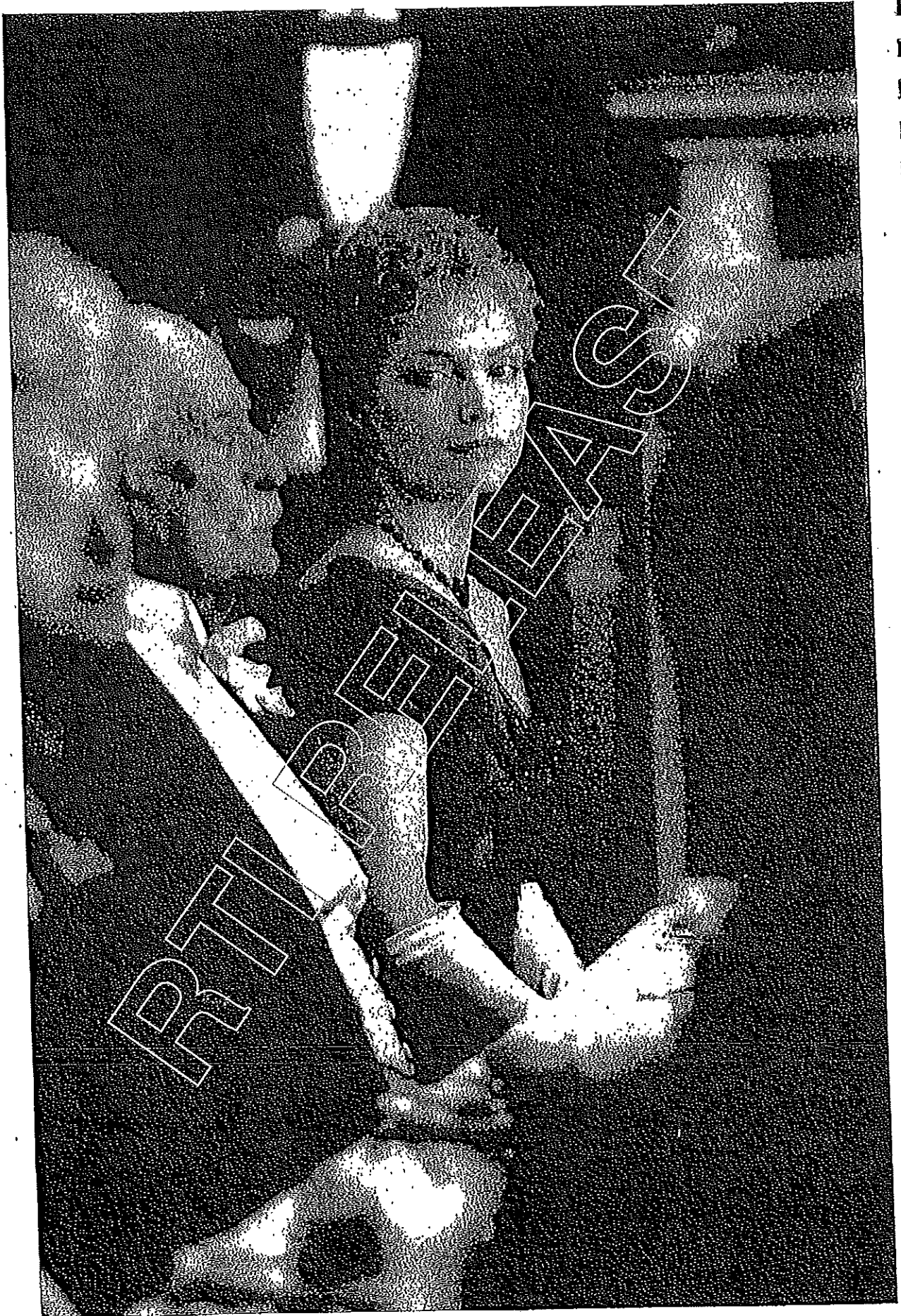


Sofie Formica, Channel Seven presenter, was the MC for the Sponsor Dinner. Photograph Natasha Harth





Sponsors Dinner in the Long Gallery at the Gallery of Modern Art, 23 May 2009 / Photograph: Natasha Harth



# Film program

## The Met film program and early animation and film in New York

Presented in conjunction with exhibition 'American Realism and Impressionism', the Australian Cinémathèque presented a two-part film program — The Age of Innocence and Hollywood on the Hudson — reflecting life on the American east coast at the turn of the twentieth century. A selection of New York animations from the 1920s and 1930s was presented as a key component of The Met for Kids animation lounge, with three experimental films created in New York in the 1920s also shown in specially designed screening lounges as part of The Met resource lounge.

A total of 30 films were presented in the Cinémathèque film programs, with 2836 people attending the 126 screenings. 25 000 people visited the Met for Kids animation lounge and The Met resource lounge, where works were presented on loop throughout the exhibition period.

## The Age of Innocence

The Age of Innocence presented an extraordinary selection of cinematic period dramas as envisaged by contemporary filmmakers. With dramatic settings, lavish costuming and art direction, the films celebrated the complex web of domesticity, affluence and social mores of the time. Drawing on literary sources including Henry James and Edith Wharton, the program highlighted the growing contrasts between the traditions and values of the old century; particularly in relation to class and gender, and the excitement and transformations of the new, including the rise and appeal of international tourism and the social implications of new money. Shaped by the advent of urban modernity, new immigrant communities and the rise of urban crime, The Age of Innocence program also showed the social experiences of Americans in a period of rapid change.

## Hollywood on the Hudson

Hollywood on the Hudson featured a selection of classic films from the 1920s and 1930s that encapsulated a rich, vibrant and culturally aware New York City at a time of great economic and social change. The program pointed to the beginnings of New York's film studios, which blossomed into havens for rebellious and unconventional filmmakers who rejected the homogenised Hollywood movie system. Making use of extraordinary New York locations, these films highlighted the importance of the east coast studio productions in American cinema history. The depth of their contribution to American cinema remained largely unacknowledged until the recent landmark publication *Hollywood on the Hudson: Film and Television in New York from Griffith to Sarnoff* by pre-eminent film historian Richard Koszarski. Meticulously researched, this definitive history of New York filmmaking in the first half of the twentieth century provided the inspiration for the program that was presented with the generous assistance of Richard Koszarski, The Library of Congress, The Museum of Modern Art, Le Giornate del Cinema Muto and the UCLA Film and Television Archive. Eight of the 14 films were presented with live accompaniment on the Gallery's 1929 theatre-style Wuriltzer organ.



Production still from *Speedy* 1928 / Director: Ted Wilde / Image courtesy: British Film Institute

## The Met for Kids animation lounge

The Met for Kids animation lounge showcased animations created in New York through the 1920s and 1930s. A prosperous and vibrant city, New York was home to a busy film industry and, until the late 1920s, also the centre of the American animation industry. Newspaper distributors considered ways to incorporate daily comic strips into weekly cinema newsreels and looked towards animation to facilitate this transition. Animated characters such as Felix the Cat, Betty Boop and Popeye soon became stars of the era. The Met for Kids Animation Lounge also featured the work of New York cartoonist Winsor McCay. The self-described 'originator and inventor of animated drawing' McCay pioneered the development of early frame by frame animation.

## The Met resource lounge

The experimental films *Manhatta* 1920-21 (Charles Sheeler and Paul Strand) and *Skyscraper Symphony* 1929 (Robert Florey) were presented in specially designed screening rooms. Created in New York during the 1920s, both films abstract from the rapid and restless metamorphosis of New York's urban landscape. The musical talents of Duke Ellington and the Cotton Club Orchestra was also seen in *Black and Tan* 1929 (Dudley Murphy). Set in the famed Cotton Club in Harlem, New York, the film reflects the multifaceted beauty of the improvised score with an exploration of the cinematic form.

## Visitors' feedback

*I have been coming to the Gallery twice a week on average to see the current series of movies which have been wonderful. Some of these, especially the silent movies with organ accompaniment, I would never have had the opportunity to see elsewhere.*

*I would like to thank the Gallery of Modern Art for presenting the excellent Hollywood on the Hudson season. I enjoyed the in-depth study of films from this era and especially the accompaniment on the Wurlitzer organ.*

*Since the opening of the 'American Impressionism and Realism exhibition', a friend and I have also taken advantage of the film programmes Age of Innocence and in particular the free screenings of Hollywood on the Hudson. These have been excellent and the Gallery is to be commended for initiating the series:*

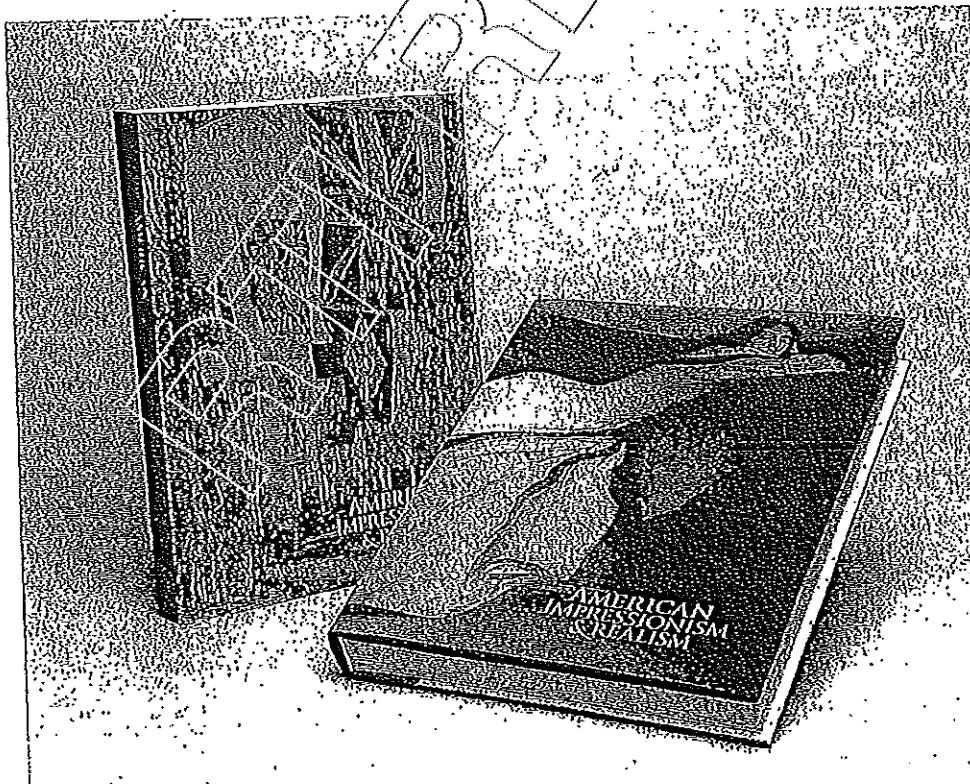
# In print and online

## In print

The Illustrated catalogue featured an overview of 'American Impressionism and Realism' by exhibition curator Dr H Barbara Weinberg, and American artists' biographies and catalogue entries by Research Associate Stephanie L Herdrich, and Research Assistant Elizabeth Athens, with the assistance of Research Assistant Katie Lynn Steiner, all from the Department of American Paintings and Sculpture, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

The publication also included an essay on Australian Impressionism by Lynne Seear, Deputy Director, Curatorial and Collection Development, Queensland Art Gallery. In her essay, Lynne Seear explored the qualities of American and Australian cultural affinity and divergence, and the call of Europe to which this generation of Australian artists responded. Australian artists' biographies and catalogue entries by Angela Goddard, Curator, Australian Art to 1970; and Michael Hawker, Curatorial Assistant, Australian Art to 1970 — both from the Queensland Art Gallery — also featured.

The 340-page book, published in both softcover (\$44.95) and hardcover (\$69.95), could be purchased from the exhibition shop, the Gallery Store and through the Store's online service at [www.australianartbooks.com.au](http://www.australianartbooks.com.au), as well as through the ticket desks at the point of entry. Audiences responded favourably to the publication, with 4355 softcover and 898 hardcover sold. A further 156 copies were also distributed nationally to the book trade through Thames and Hudson.



The softcover and hardcover publications

## Online

Online resources for 'American Impressionism and Realism: A Landmark Exhibition from the Met' comprised a large exhibition website, media centre, downloadable audio tours and an interactive virtual tour. Approximately 60 000 visitors viewed the online resources for The Met, with a total of over 250 000 pages viewed.

The exhibition website was launched in stages to coincide with key promotional dates. It included an overview of the exhibition themes along with detailed information on key works from the exhibition, and information on The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Online visitors were able to access detailed information on ticketing and travel/accommodation packages, education programs and resources, film programs, the Up Late program and online ticketing facilities, Gallery Members promotions, and Children's programs, as well as purchase exhibition merchandise.

The Gallery presented two free downloadable audio tours to facilitate self-guided tours of the exhibition: one tour for adult visitors, and one for children and families. Tours could be downloaded from the links on the website, or at the Queensland Art Gallery through the wireless network. Both were produced for the Gallery by exhibition sponsor Auctereo.

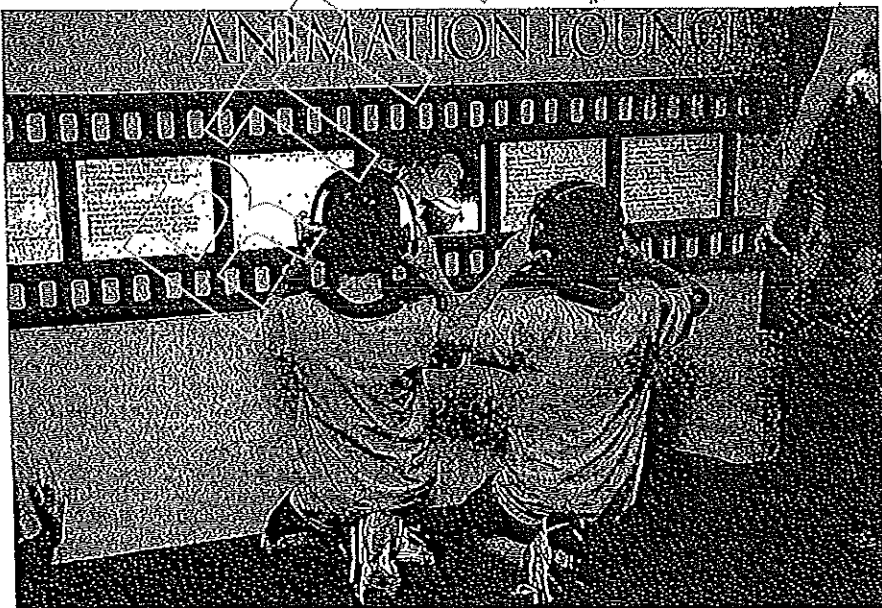
For the first time, audiences were invited to take an online tour of the exhibition. This resource provided images, captions, didactic and thematic information via an interactive floorplan of the exhibition. The online virtual tour logged approximately 2850 users, with an average viewing time of almost 10 minutes per user.

# The Met for Kids

As part of 'American Impressionism and Realism', the Children's Art Centre presented The Met for Kids adjacent to the exhibition spaces, as well as a range of interpretative materials for young viewers visiting the exhibition.

The Met for Kids featured large-scale graphics based on the Coney Island amusement park popular during the early 1900s, and set the scene for children to engage with one of the key exhibition themes of leisure and entertainment. Children were invited to explore and learn through a range of experiences including hands-on activities, screenings of animations and an illustrated timeline. The Fun and Games drawing activity invited young visitors to picture their favourite past times on film-reel-inspired templates. In the Animation Lounge, children could view screenings of popular New York animations from the era such as Felix the Cat, Popeye, Betty Boop and Gertie the Dinosaur, highlighting this new form of popular entertainment in the 1920s and 1930s. The illustrated timeline provided children with insights into the exciting times of the American Impressionists and Realists through a range of fascinating facts. For children to learn more about the artists and the era, a range of children's books and publications were available in the Reading Parlour.

In addition, programming was developed by the Children's Art Centre especially for young visitors to engage with and enjoy the art works on display in the main exhibition. Interpretative material included 30 children's labels, an art trail (a free colour publication featuring activities and images of key art works) and the Children's Art Centre's first audio tour guide for children. The audio tour featured descriptions of eight art works and addressed the key themes and art works in the exhibition. The audio tour was narrated by Lindsay Webb and Simone Kelaart, produced with the support of exhibition sponsor Austereo, and was downloadable online or at the Queensland Art Gallery through wi-fi or 3G network. The audio tour was downloaded by 2267 visitors.



Young visitors enjoying The Met for Kids activities / Photograph: Natasha Harth





Young visitors enjoying The Mat for Kids activities / Photograph: Ray Fulton

# Education and public programs

## Opening public programs

The opening weekend of the exhibition included an afternoon exhibition symposium at the Gallery of Modern Art and a range of curator's talks in the exhibition space.

On Saturday 30 May, the 'American Impressionism and Realism' afternoon symposium featured keynote presentations by Dr H Barbara Weinberg, Alice Pratt Brown Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and Dr Caroline Jordan, Lecturer in Art History, La Trobe University, Melbourne. Gallery staff talks included David Burnett, Curator, International Art; and Angela Goddard, Curator, Australian Art to 1970; and a panel discussion facilitated by Julie Ewington, Curatorial Manager, Australian Art. The symposium was attended by 185 people.

Curatorial staff provided themed exhibition floor talks in the exhibition spaces on Sunday 31 May. Speakers included Julie Ewington, Curatorial Manager, Australian Art; Kathryn Weir, Curatorial Manager, International Art and Australian Cinematheque; David Burnett, Curator, International Art; and Angela Goddard, Curator, Australian Art to 1970.



David Burnett, Curator, International Art, leading a guided tour of 'American Impressionism and Realism' / Photograph: Natasha Harth

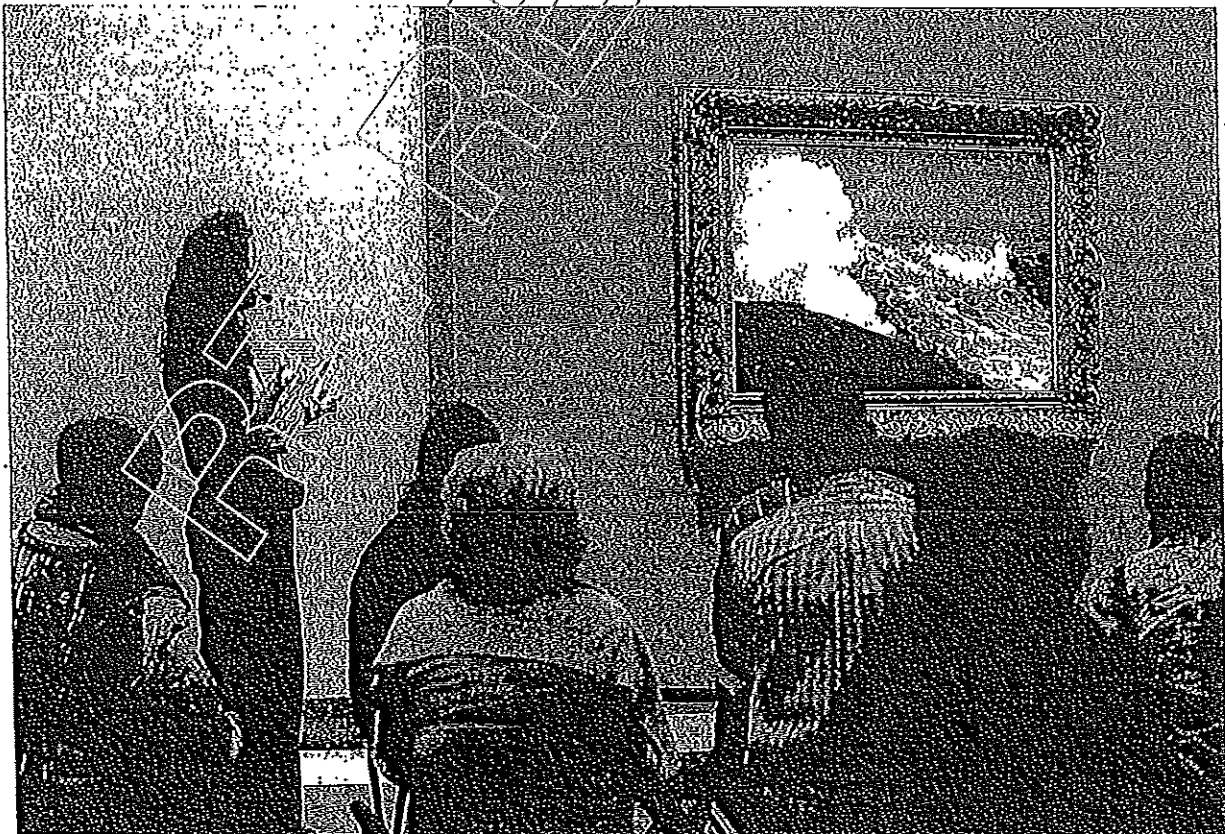
## Ongoing public programs

Ongoing public programs held throughout the duration of the exhibition explored themes from the exhibition as well as providing a wider context for the works on display.

The series 'Talking about American art', hosted by Dr Mark Pennings, Queensland University of Technology, focused on developments in American art and culture from the 1880s to the 1930s in eight public programs. The series featured special guests including Dr Nancy Underhill, Dr Rex Butler and Dr Hilary Emmett.

Afternoon talks were held every Sunday and featured a different speaker each week. Exploring themes from fashion and architectural design to music, literature and self-portraiture, the talks were hosted by a range of speakers from artists and curators to fashion designers and local historians. Speakers included Brisbane artist Charles Robb, Professor Suzi Vaughan (Fashion Department, Queensland University of Technology), Professor Kay Ferris (Griffith University), and Dr Geoff Glinn (University of Queensland).

A special 4th of July event was held with United States Consul-General Judith Fergin, in-conversation with David Burnett, Curator, International Art.



Angela Goddard, Curator, Australian Art to 1970, leading a guided tour of 'American Impressionism and Realism' / Photograph: Malasha Hurth