

Media Release 2/02/2012

William Boissevain OBE

'A New Beginning'

Linton & Kay Fine Art, 16 February – 4 March 2012

After an eminent career spanning more than six decades, William (Wim) Boissevain is presenting a fresh exhibition of works that, through their dynamic structure, beauty and intense colour, reaffirm his elevated position in the Australian art world.

'A New Beginning', his first solo exhibition at Linton & Kay Fine Art, is an amazing insight into a major talent who will continue to create at a cracking pace for the foreseeable future.

William Boissevain enjoys a world-wide reputation as one of Australia's most distinguished artists. His paintings hang in galleries and major collections throughout the world. He was awarded an Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) in 1978 for his services to the advancement of art.

Boissevain was born in New York in 1927, the son of a Dutch diplomat. He grew up moving around the world, as a result of his parents various postings. He studied at l'Academie des Beaux Arts, Paris and at the Central School of Arts and Crafts, London. He has lived in Western Australia since 1947.

In 1959 Boissevain won the Claude Hotchin Art Prize and the important Helena Rubenstein Portrait Prize in 1961. A decade later he won the Perth International Drawing Prize, judged by British sculptor Sir Anthony Caro. In 2005 he received special recognition through the inclusion of his portrait of Sir James Alexander Forrest in the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra.

Boissevain's childhood was somewhat isolated and his formative years were irrevocably influenced by the war. As his stature grew in Australian art circles, he found that, unlike other artists who took refuge 'down under', he countered the ugliness of the world through a pursuit of beauty and harmony much influenced by the School of Paris.

His thorough knowledge of and familiarity with European artists, including the moderns, has allowed him to draw on a range of influences from the decorative style of Matisse to the use of dynamic, fiery brush strokes that reveal a deep understanding of Van Gogh.

While his style is steeped in Western traditions, his subjects are thoroughly Australian. They range from exquisite commissioned portraits through studies of Aboriginal stockmen and their families to children, animals, nudes, outback and local landscapes and the poetic floral studies for which he is so widely renowned.

Collections include the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; National Portrait Gallery, Canberra; Art Gallery of Western Australia; Art Gallery of Tasmania; Murdoch University, Perth; Curtin University of Technology, Perth; Premier's Department - Western Australia; Bankwest, Perth; The Holmes a Court Collection; Wesley College, Western Australia;

Orion Bank, Hong Kong and London; Alcoa - Perth, Melbourne and U.S.A.

Selected private collections include: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales; Baroness Bentinck, Switzerland; The Emir of Bahrain; Sir Vincent Fairfax; The Holmes a'Court Collection; Lady McMahon; Sir Val Duncan; The Hon. Malcolm Fraser AC; Bailleau Myer; Garrick Agnew; Daniel Hill; Kamahl; ABBA; David Addenbrooke; AMP Perth; Joondalup Development Corporation; CSBP; Burswood Management Corporation; Westfarmers Ltd, Perth

The artist is available for interviews and photographs. Please contact Linton & Kay Fine Art for more information or to arrange an interview.

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