



AUSTRALIAN GALLERIES

SYDNEY

GARRY SHEAD

Paintings

MEDIA RELEASE

Exhibition dates: 13 - 30 June 2019

15 Royston Street Paddington NSW 2021

To be opened by Emeritus Professor Sasha Grishin AM

Open 7 days 10am to 6pm

Garry Shead is one of Australia's best-loved and highly acclaimed contemporary figurative artists. This long awaited survey show titled, *Paintings* will exhibit Shead's creative journey with selected works spanning the last 30 years.

Garry Shead was born in Sydney in 1942. Following studies at the National Art School from 1961-62, Shead was a published cartoonist, a director of films, and he worked as a scenic artist with ABC TV. Shead's first solo exhibition was with Watters Gallery in Sydney in 1966. Since then he has had over fifty solo exhibitions and taken part in more than seventy group exhibitions including being a finalist in thirteen Archibald Prize exhibitions. Winner of both the Archibald Prize for portraiture and the Dobell Prize for drawing, Shead possesses a rare lyrical sensibility in his artistic vision.

This exhibition presents key works from the acclaimed DH Lawrence series, all the way through to the more recent series inspired by Dante Alighieri's 'Divine Comedy'. It illustrates the breadth, profundity and spiralling vision of one of Australia's most significant artists.

Emeritus Professor Sasha Grishin AM articulated, "*Garry Shead's 'Antipodean Divine Comedy' series with its Australian setting is rich in poetic imagery and symbolism exploring the journey into the timeless mysteries encountered in Hell, Purgatory and Paradise. Shead has that rare ability to make an image, which simultaneously, on one level, is deeply personal, yet on another level, possesses a universal appeal and has a meaning which each individual viewer will discover for themselves.*"

Paintings is current until 30 June 2019.

For more details or images contact:

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Image: *The Baptism* 1999 oil on canvas 166 x 243 cm