

MR TIMOTHY STORRIER

Citation for the Conferral of Doctor of Arts (*honoris causa*)

Timothy (Tim) Storrier's precocious talent became evident when, at the age of thirteen and competing in the sixteen years and under category, he won the Wellington Pastoral, Agricultural and Horticultural Society *Best Drawing Award*. It was, however in 1968 when he was still only 19 years of age, that Tim announced his entry to the stage of Australian art by winning the Sir John Sulman Prize for his painting of *Suzy* – the youngest winner in the history of the prize. This prestigious award provided the young painter with a flying start to a career that, over the subsequent thirty years, has seen him become one of the nation's most respected and sought-after artists.

While still a relatively young man Tim was artist-in-residence in 1972 at the Owen Tooth Memorial Cottage in France, a facility administered by the Art Gallery on New South Wales. A few years later he was included in the Australian Landscape Exhibition at Expo74, held in Washington in the United States. His recognition in that country was reinforced by the purchase in the late 1980's of three of his works by the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. That period of his work was given particular significance by his second Sulman Prize in 1984 in a process adjudicated by the eminent Australian painter, Arthur Boyd.

Tim Storrier is a contemporary Australian artist whose paintings are composed and executed in his own distinctive style. Tim has said that his single objective is to produce beautiful images of subjects that matter to him. This simple objective led him to produce his own techniques to develop a style that embraces the vast subtleties of the Australian landscape, in particular its vastness and moods, and the special role played by fire. Tim has always attempted to deflect interest in himself to his art, and resists all attempts to compare his art, or to place it within any of the modern or late modern schools. His canvasses are bold, symbolic, arresting and evocative of the many moods of our land.

Tim's love of the Australian landscape was born in his experiences as a young boy growing up in rural New South Wales, and it is significant that he has chosen to bring his family to live in Bathurst so that he can paint in an environment reminiscent of his formative years.

His close friend John Olsen, another important Australian artist, said of Tim: "Storrier remains privately shy – he is one of the most secretive and enigmatic artists working in Australia today - a man of predictable intentions and directions, and one of the most original".

Tim Storrier is featured in all major Australian art museums and is a Trustee of the Art Gallery of New South Wales. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1994 for his services to art.

Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I commend to you, for the award of the Degree of Arts (*honoris causa*), leading Australian artist and citizen of Bathurst and regional New South Wales, Tim Storrier.

Dated this Eight Day of May Two Thousand and Three