



Georgia O'Keeffe Ram's Head, Blue Morning Glory, 1938 Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Gift of The Burnett Foundation © Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

## O'Keeffe, Preston and Cossington Smith: Making Modernism

Ground-breaking exhibition brings major body of O'Keeffe work to Australia for first time

May 2016

The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Heide Museum of Modern Art, and Queensland Art Gallery are delighted to present *O'Keeffe, Preston, Cossington Smith: Making Modernism* in partnership with the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe. Commencing in October 2016, this ground-breaking exhibition showcases the iconic art of Georgia O'Keeffe, one of the most significant American painters of the twentieth century, alongside modernist masterpieces by the celebrated and pioneering Australian artists, Margaret Preston and Grace Cossington Smith.

The paintings of these three artists represent distinct modernist visions that express the identity and culture of their respective nations. The landscape and a sense of place were a tremendous source of inspiration for each of them.

# Media release

While O’Keeffe, Preston and Cossington Smith developed highly individualised styles, the conceptual underpinnings of their work, their shared themes and their approaches to the portrayal of modern life underscore the broader story of how modernism evolved around the world.

Cody Hartley, Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe, said the Museum is thrilled to partner with the Art Gallery of NSW, Heide Museum of Modern Art and the Queensland Art Gallery to bring a major body of Georgia O’Keeffe’s work to Australia for the first time.

“We are proud to be supporting this exhibition, offering exceptional works from the Museum’s collection to facilitate this innovative study of global modernism via the parallels of O’Keeffe’s work with her Australian peers.”

Dr Michael Brand, director, Art Gallery of NSW said the multi-venue exhibition will not only introduce Australian audiences to one of America’s most innovative painters, but also bring fresh perspectives to the work of two of Australia’s best known and beloved artists.

“Preston and Cossington Smith, like O’Keeffe in America, have long been recognised for their central role in the development of modern art in Australia. The three artists are connected by their choice of subject, their experimentation with light, colour and form and their commitment to presenting alternative ways of seeing the world,” Dr Brand said.

Kirsty Grant, director and CEO, Heide Museum of Modern Art said the exhibition, curated by Lesley Harding (Heide), Denise Mimmocchi (AGNSW), Jason Smith (initiating curator) with Cody Hartley and Carolyn Kastner (Georgia O’Keeffe Museum), draws together around thirty masterpieces by each artist from the breadth of their careers, with major paintings from Preston and Cossington Smith on loan from public and private collections across Australia.

“In considering the similarities and distinctions in their art we aim to bring deeper understanding about modernism’s dispersal and reinvention as it developed beyond the metropolitan wellspring of Europe,” Grant said.

*Making Modernism* is generously supported by the Terra Foundation for American Art and the Gordon Darling Foundation.

# Media release

**O’Keeffe, Preston and Cossington Smith: Making Modernism opens at Heide Museum of Modern Art on 12 October 2016, on display until 19 February 2017.**

The exhibition will then tour to the Queensland Art Gallery from 11 March – 11 June 2017 and the Art Gallery of New South Wales between 1 July – 2 October 2017.

## **About the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum**

The Georgia O’Keeffe Museum was established in 1997 to preserve and advance the artistic legacy of Georgia O’Keeffe. The Museum is dedicated to developing appreciation of O’Keeffe’s remarkable oeuvre both nationally and internationally through exhibitions that provide new scholarship on her practice.

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