

Celebrating a lifetime of Cassab's art

DANNY GOCS

THE life and work of award-winning artist Judy Cassab is being celebrated with a series of exhibitions in Sydney and Melbourne.

The major exhibition, *Judy Cassab, A Celebration*, featuring her work over the years sourced from the family's private collection, will be officially launched by NSW Governor, Professor Marie Bashir, at Eva Breuer Art Dealer in Sydney on November 16.

Cassab, who is now 93, will attend the opening along with family members and guests, including actor Jack Thompson who had his portrait painted by Cassab in 1987.

At the opening her family will announce gifts of paintings to the National Portrait Gallery, The State Library, The National Library, Macquarie University and several regional galleries.

On November 26, the Sydney Jewish Museum will launch an exhibition featuring Cassab's works from the museum's collection and from her private collection including portraits of her family and works from her teenage years. The exhibition will be opened by art philanthropist Gene Sherman and be on display until March 30, 2014.

The *Judy Cassab, A Celebration* exhibition will continue at Melbourne's Mossgreen Gallery from March 1-22 with a selection of works from the Cassab family's collection.

The idea for the exhibitions came from Cassab's son, John Seed, who wanted his mother to celebrate the 60th anniversary of her first exhibition



Sally Robinson's Archibald Prize entry of Judy Cassab and Charles Blackman.



Judy Cassab relaxes at home in Sydney while posing for artist Sally Robinson.

at Macquarie Galleries in 1953.

"These kind of exhibitions are usually held after someone dies, but I thought it would be great if she could enjoy the celebrations while she is alive and in good health," he says.

"All the galleries and museums were very keen to be involved."

Born Judit Kaszab in 1920 in Vienna to Hungarian parents, Cassab was raised by her mother and grandmother in Beregszász, Hungary. Between 1939 and 1949, Cassab studied art in Prague and at the Budapest Academy, but in 1944 her studies were interrupted by the Nazi occupation. She survived the war by assuming her maid's identity.

Cassab migrated to Australia in 1951 with her husband, Jansci Kampfner, and two young sons and quickly gained recognition for her landscape and portrait art.

She won the prestigious Archibald Prize for portraiture twice – in 1961 with a portrait of Stanislaus Rapotec and in 1968 with the portrait of Margo Lewers.

In 1969 she received the Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in recognition of service to the visual arts, followed by the Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1988.

In 1995 Cassab was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Sydney University. In 2011, the Hungarian government presented her with the Gold Cross of Merit.

Cassab has held more than 70 solo exhibitions throughout Australia, as well as in London and Paris, since her first exhibition in 1953.

She has painted the portraits of royal family members in the UK, India and Thailand, as well as notable Australians including Dame Joan Sutherland, Sir Robert Helpmann, and artists such as Sidney Nolan and Brett Whiteley.

For the past few years Cassab has invited acclaimed artist Charles Blackman, now 85, for weekly meet-

ings at her Sydney home where they chat and draw sketches.

Last year artist Sally Robinson, winner of the Portia Geach prize for portraiture, painted the two of them and entered the work in the Archibald Prize competition.

Judy Cassab won the prestigious Archibald Prize for portraiture twice.

Seed says that Cassab likes to sketch but does not paint any more.

Other galleries and museums are joining the celebration by exhibiting Cassab works from their collections. These include the National Portrait Gallery, the Art Gallery of NSW, the National Library, the Sydney Opera House, Montefiore Homes Randwick, Macquarie University, the

University of Sydney, the Sydney Town Hall and Woollahra Council.

In addition, Cassab paintings from The Emanuel Synagogue's collection and from the Montefiore Homes will go on display at the homes in Randwick from November 18-27.

Director of Eva Breuer Art Dealer, Dr Nicky McWilliam, says: "The exhibitions celebrate the life and work of Judy Cassab. Many of her portraits hang in significant collections in Australia and we expect many collectors will be keen to view her other works in this landmark exhibition."

Director of Mossgreen, Paul Sumner, says: "These exhibitions are a great chance for everyone to share in her amazing life and career."

Judy Cassab, A Celebration is at Eva Breuer Art Dealer in Sydney from November 16 to March 31, 2014 and at Mossgreen Gallery, 926 High Street, Armadale from March 1-22, 2014.



Judy Cassab's portrait of author Thomas Keneally (1987).



Judy Cassab's 1996 portrait of Melbourne art dealer Joseph Brown.

Search for artworks

EVA Breuer Art Dealer is creating an online catalogue of Judy Cassab's portraits to honour her artistic life.

Members of the public and collectors are asked to contact the gallery if they have or know of any Cassab portraits.

The project, which is the brainchild of the gallery and the Cassab family, will get underway during the celebrations and is expected to take several years.

Enquiries: Eva Breuer Art Dealer on (02) 9362 0297 or art@evabreuerartdealer.com.au

5 WAYS FOR YOUR BUSINESS TO WOW! OUR READERS

With premium advertising on the AJN iPad app

TOUCH HERE

SLIDESHOWS
Add a slideshow to your advertisement and show all your products. You can even link each product shot to your online shop.

TOUCH HERE

VIDEO
Add a video to your advertisement to help showcase your product or service.

TOUCH HERE

INTERACTIVE WEB SITE
Target our readers with special offers and competitions with an interactive single page microsite

TOUCH HERE

DOWNLOAD LINK
We can link your brochure to your ad - letting you tell the whole story of your business - with no size limitation.

TOUCH HERE

BOOKSHELF
Add a fully interactive publication to the AJN's iPad bookshelf. It's like your very own iPad app.

scan to download our app

