



Donald Judd (1928 – 1994), *Untitled*, 1974-75, reinforced concrete, 126.0 x 760.0 x 660.0 cm (irreg.). Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; South Australian Government Grant, in association with Marshall & Brougham Pty Ltd 1974. Photograph: Clayton Glen.

# Donald Judd in Adelaide

## 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary display at the Art Gallery of South Australia

15 October 2004 - 30 January 2005

In May 1974 the renowned American minimalist artist, Donald Judd (1928 – 1994) arrived in Adelaide to commence work on a controversial art installation in the courtyard of the Art Gallery of South Australia. 30 years on, his triangular concrete sculpture, *Untitled* remains one of the most contentious works in the Gallery's collection, attracting equal measures of admiration and scorn. **Donald Judd in Adelaide** is a special free display to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this important work; placing it in context of other minimalist works by Donald Judd.

Art Gallery of South Australia Director, Ron Radford explains "the Gallery's Donald Judd work is one of the finest 20<sup>th</sup> Century sculptures in the collection but it's also one of the most misunderstood works in the collection... In fact, most people don't even understand that it *is* a work of art!"

**Donald Judd in Adelaide** features Judd's original drawings for the project, along with a selection of his prints and furniture designs from the Gallery's collection. "We hope that through this small display we can help to explain just why this sculpture is so extraordinary and why it is such an important work of art both for South Australia and internationally" says Radford.

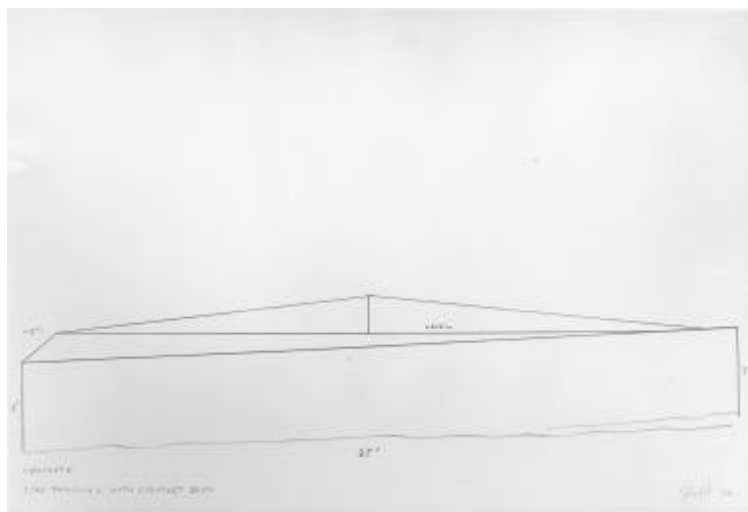
Judd's visit to Adelaide coincided with the Gallery's exhibition *Some Recent American Art*; a display of minimal and conceptual art organised by the Museum of Modern Art, New York. In the last phases of

the Vietnam war, anti-American sentiment ran high and both the exhibition and Judd's sculpture commission caused a public outcry in Adelaide. Local academics joined with students, political groups and the media to denounce this "American imperialism" and "servility to things foreign" through protests and a debate which continued into 1975.

Ian North was the Gallery's Curator of Paintings and Sculptures in the 1970s and recalls meeting Judd: "It was my first encounter with was a big time American artist... I remember him lounging back in my office, hands behind his head, cowboy boots on... he was a man of immense self confidence; he was very sure of his mission and of his singular importance as an artist."

The Adelaide commission encouraged Judd to experiment and *Untitled* stands as a stark monument to minimalism; an angular monolith whose lines work both with and against those of its surroundings. Says North, "the Judd sculpture was Adelaide's *Blue Poles* – suggestive of artistic progressiveness against the conservatism of the times." It is one of only a very few site-specific outdoor installations in the world created by the artist. Others exist in Germany, New York and in the grounds of Philip Johnson's Glass House in New Canaan, Connecticut.

The installation of the Adelaide work involved a team of surveyors, engineers, carpenters and concreters who worked on the project for many months. While Donald Judd oversaw preparations of the site, he left Australia before construction was completed and sadly never returned to Adelaide to see the finished work.



Donald Judd, *Drawing for sculpture 'Untitled'*, 1974, pencil on paper. Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; South Australian Government Grant 1974.

### **DONALD JUDD IN ADELAIDE 30th anniversary display**

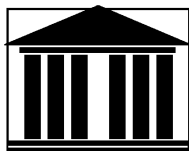
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**Art Gallery of South Australia, North Terrace, Adelaide.** [www.artgallery.sa.gov.au](http://www.artgallery.sa.gov.au)

Free admission

### **Thursday 14 October at 6:15pm: Donald Judd in Adelaide – Spring Lecture**

PROF IAN NORTH recounts Donald Judd's legendary 1974 visit to Adelaide in a special Spring Lecture at the Art Gallery of South Australia. Discover the rest of the story behind this extraordinary work of art. Tickets: \$8 / \$6 Members. Bookings on 08 8207 7050.



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