



***Celebrating 125 Years of the
Art Gallery of South Australia***
1881 – 2006

Big Birthday Party

Sunday 18 June 11am – 3pm

The Art Gallery of South Australia celebrates its grand 125th Anniversary this Sunday 18 June and is inviting all South Australians to join in the festivities at a Big Birthday Party jam-packed with free entertainment and activities for all ages, from 11am to 3pm.

Our Big Birthday will commence at 11am when **Director Christopher Menz** leads a special walk-through the collections highlighting the works of art, the building and the people who since 1881 have made our Gallery a true Adelaide icon.

Premier Mike Rann will also join in the excitement of this historic occasion and will be slicing up the enormous Birthday cake for all our visitors at 12 noon.

We'll reveal Adelaide's favourite work of art as voted by the public through the **People's Choice** competition, and will unveil our new **Small Talk** children's labels program presented by **BankSA**. Look for the brightly-coloured labels throughout the permanent collection and delight at the insights of hundreds of primary school students from across the state.

Children will be able to make their own party hat at the **free art and craft sessions**, have their **face painted** and take an **Eye Spy children's tour** of the Gallery lead by other children. A range of musicians from **sopranos** to **string quartets** and **marching bands** will create the perfect soundtrack to a great afternoon of art and culture and there will be plenty of **great food and drink** to keep revelers going. The magnificent exhibition **Margaret Preston: Art & Life** will also be open, showcasing 200 works by this great South Australian artist. Visit our website for the full program of events: www.artgallery.sa.gov.au

Since the Art Gallery of South Australia officially opened its doors on 18 June 1881, our State's art collection has grown to be one of Australia's greatest with 35,000 works of art, the building has expanded seven-fold, and we've welcomed over 20 million visitors. Our anniversary is a chance to look back over 125 years of artistic excellence, and forward to an exciting future. Come and celebrate with us!

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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