



Exhibition honours great Gallery donor

One of the Art Gallery of South Australia's most generous and longstanding donors, **Max Carter AO** will be recognised today when the exhibition *M.J.M. Carter Collection: The Joy of Giving* opens in his honour. This exhibition is a tribute to the extraordinary contribution Mr Carter has made to the Gallery since 1966 and is testament to his great philanthropy which has assisted in the acquisition of hundreds of works of art for the state's collection now valued at around \$10 million.

Director **Christopher Menz** states 'Few donors are able to change the shape of a collection, but Max Carter through the M.J.M. Carter Collection has done just that. Mr Carter has significantly enhanced the Gallery's holdings of British and Asian art and has dramatically transformed the Gallery's colonial Australian art collection to make it one of the most representative collections in the country.'

Max Carter's major gifts to the Gallery and highlights of the exhibition include: Eugene von Guerard's *Castle Rock Cape Shank*; Rupert Bunney's *Ancilla Domini*; Nicholas Chevalier's *Memorandum of the start of the exploring expedition*; Isaac Whitehead's *In the Sassafras Valley, Victoria*; Frederick McCubbin's *Kitchen at the Old Street Bakery*; and Charles Conder's *All on a summer's day*, one of Mr Carter's recent gifts to the Gallery in celebration of this year's 125th Anniversary.

Max Carter's long and distinguished association with the Art Gallery of South Australia includes not only a history as a passionate benefactor through the Gallery's Foundation since its inception in 1981 but also as Chairman of the Gallery's Foundation Council; many time member of the Art Gallery Board; and as an avid Gallery Guide volunteer. In 1985 he was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia for service to the arts, particularly to the Art Gallery of South Australia, and in 1992 the M.J.M. Carter Gallery of colonial art was named in his honour.

Mr Carter, who celebrates his 80th birthday this month, states 'I believe there is a great joy in seeing a work of art in an Art Gallery given by oneself, or indeed by others. It has become the most fulfilling area of my life, assisting to enhance the collection for the public to enjoy.'

Director Christopher Menz says 'It is a great pleasure in the Art Gallery of South Australia's 125th anniversary year to be acknowledging the 40th anniversary of one of the Gallery's major benefactors. The M.J.M. Carter Collection forms a magnificent and enduring legacy to the Gallery and is a powerful testimony to one person's passion for and commitment to art and the Art Gallery of South Australia.'

M.J.M. Carter Collection: The Joy of Giving will officially open on Thursday 9 November at 6 pm and to the general public on Friday 10 November at 10am and will remain on show daily until Sunday 4 February 2007 (closed Christmas Day).

Tickets: \$8, Concession \$6, Members & Students \$5, U16 free.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Heidi Chamberlain 08 8207 7032 or 0421 818 776 chamberlain.heidi@artgallery.sa.gov.au

IMAGES: A selection of high resolution images is available for media to download from: <http://www.artgallery.sa.gov.au/MediaCentreMJMCarter/MJM%20CarterIndex.html>