

**Media Release Thursday 17 March 2011**



## **Aerosol art inhabits the Art Gallery**

Ben Quilty couldn't quite believe it when the Art Gallery of South Australia acquired his most recent exhibition in its entirety. Featuring 16 luscious oil paintings and a large metal sculpture Quilty's *Inhabit* is a landmark body of work that continues the artist's exploration of self and identity.

Quilty flew into Adelaide last week for just four hours – during his visit he covered the pristine Gallery walls with aerosol paint, transforming the gallery space into a total work of art.

“This work will certainly challenge our audiences' ideas about how artists work – for contemporary artists like Ben Quilty nothing is off limits” said Gallery Director Nick Mitzevich.

Charged by what Germaine Greer recently referred to as the “scars on his psyche”, Quilty's work continues to strike a chord with his audiences. In an attempt to expel his own demons, *Inhabit* manages to capture the sentiment of a nation.

Quilty is at the top of his game and his work is highly coveted, his galleries have waiting lists for his work and he has been selected to represent his Sydney gallery at this year's Hong Kong Art Fair. *Inhabit* is the first work by Quilty to enter the Gallery's collection. It was acquired for the Gallery by the Contemporary Collectors to mark the Gallery's 130th birthday.

*Inhabit* is on display in gallery 11 from Saturday 19 March until mid June. Ben Quilty will speak about his work in the Gallery on Saturday 19 March at 2pm. Curator of Australian Paintings & Sculpture, Tracey Lock-Weir will give a free lunchtime talk on the work on Tuesday 22 March at 12.45pm. Both events are FREE and open to the general public.

Ben Quilty will be in the Gallery and available to media on Friday 18 March from 3pm.

### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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Images are available on request.