

**Media Release Wednesday 26 January 2011**



## **Art Gallery of South Australia congratulates Michael Abbott AO QC**

The Director of the Art Gallery of South Australia Nick Mitzevich today congratulated the Art Gallery's Chairman and major benefactor, Michael Abbott AO QC on being made an Officer of the Order of Australia, for services to the arts and to the law in today's Australia Day Honours List.

Nick Mitzevich said, "We are delighted to see Michael Abbott recognised with this great Australian honour. Michael has been an internationally renowned collector of Southeast Asian art for more than three decades, but his real passion is donating works from his collection to the Art Gallery of South Australia.

His numerous gifts to the Gallery are part of his commitment to improving Australians' cultural understanding of our nearest neighbours in Southeast Asia and his Australia Day Honour is very richly deserved.

The Board and the staff of the Art Gallery of South Australia thank him for his great support over so many years and congratulate him on this special day."

Mr Abbott, the Art Gallery of South Australia's Chairman since August 2002 and also one of its most generous and prolific donors, has given the Gallery nearly 1000 Asian art objects, valued in excess of \$3 million, since 1976.

In June 2010 the Art Gallery of South Australia named its Southeast Asian gallery the "Michael Abbott Gallery" in recognition of his role in transforming this part of the state's collection.

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Miranda Starke Young 0409 919 510