

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3 SEPTEMBER 2008

THE ART OF EXISTENCE LES KOSSATZ

The art of existence is a major survey exhibition of the work of Melbourne artist, Les Kossatz, at Heide Museum of Modern Art from 22 November 2008 until 8 March 2009.

This is the first exhibition to review the artist's long and varied career, bringing together over 100 works sourced from public and private collections throughout Australia.

Spanning the 1960s to today, *The art of existence* presents wide-ranging examples of Kossatz's experimental approach to painting, sculpture, drawing and print-making, revealing his life-long fascination with the nature of humanity and the interaction of man and his surroundings.

The exhibition examines some of Kossatz's primary and ongoing engagements, such as his observations of human behaviour and its similar manifestation in the animal world; the beliefs that sustain individuals and communities (such as religion, music and politics); and the beguiling forms of the Australian landscape.

Kossatz believes 'the artist should be an observer and recorder of life', and many of his works reflect his responses to contemporary events and situations, such as the series of travellers' bags, *AM Zoo Berlin* (1992) which was created following a visit to Berlin soon after the unification of east and west.

The art of existence reveals the range of materials the artist has mastered in his practice. Kossatz has experimented with resin casting since the 1970s, fashioned raw hides into sculptural objects in the 1990s, and more recently has turned to aluminium as the medium for his outdoor sculpture.

Kossatz's monumental life-size sheep sculptures, for which he is well-known, will form a significant component of the exhibition, including his earliest examples from 1972 created from casts and fleeces, and works such as *Hard slide* (1980), the prize-winning commission held by the National Gallery of Victoria.

Sculptures will be installed outdoors in Heide's Connie Kimberley Sculpture Park, as well as within the Central Galleries of Heide III, including: *Butler's compartments* (1985), *Eagles*, *Hubble's law and other cosmic equations* (2003) and *Guardians of the last piece* (2003).

Les Kossatz's first major commission was the stained glass windows at Monash University Chapel, Melbourne in 1967–68. Other significant public commissions include the ceremonial doors for the High Court of Australia (1979–80), the Eternal Flame (1986–87) at the Australian War Memorial, *Coming & going* (1979–83) for the Victorian Arts Centre Trust, the Korean War Memorial, Canberra (1997–2000) and *Curtain call* (1987–88) for the lawns at Darling Harbour, Sydney.

Kossatz has worked and studied in Australia, Europe and America. He currently lives and works in Melbourne and is available for interview.

***The art of existence*, Les Kossatz
22 November 2008 – 8 March 2009
Heide III: Central Galleries & Connie Kimberley Sculpture Park
Guest Curator: Zara Stanhope**

ASSOCIATED HEIDE PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

FEATURE EVENT

Inside the artist's studio

Sunday 1 March 2009, 10.30am

A special opportunity to visit artist Les Kossatz's Carlton studio – limited places

Tickets: Adult \$18, Heide Member/Concession \$15

In conversation

Sunday 11 January 2009, 2.00pm

Artist Les Kossatz in conversation with Guest Curator Zara Stanhope

Tickets: FREE with admission

Exhibition tours

Friday 28 November 2008

Friday 5 December 2008

Sunday 7 December 2008

Sunday 14 December 2008

Friday 19 December 2008

Sunday 28 December 2008

Tuesday 6 January 2009

Sunday 18 January 2009

Friday 23 January 2009

Friday 30 January 2009

Sunday 1 February 2009

Tuesday 3 February 2009

Friday 6 February 2009

Sunday 15 February 2009

Tuesday 24 February 2009

Friday 27 February 2009

All tours 2.00pm

Volunteer Guide

Tickets: FREE with admission

Heide Museum of Modern Art

7 Templestowe Road

Bulleen Victoria 3105 Australia

T 03 9850 1500

info@heide.com.au

www.heide.com.au

Tue–Fri 10.00am–5.00pm

Sat/Sun/Public Hols 12.00noon–5.00pm

Closed Christmas Day & Boxing Day

Admission: Adult \$12, Senior \$10, Concession \$8,

Gardens free

For further media information:

Magda Petkoff, Purple Media

T: 03 9328 4522

M: 0409 436 473

magda@purplemedia.com.au

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

**ARTS
VICTORIA**



Indemnification for this exhibition
is provided by the Victorian Government

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

**DESIGN
BY
PIDGEON**



EDUCATION & PUBLIC PROGRAMS PARTNER

