

McCUBBIN

LAST IMPRESSIONS 1907–17

A National Gallery of Australia Travelling Exhibition

McCubbin: Last Impressions 1907–17 is a fresh look at Frederick McCubbin's late work. It concentrates on the last 11 years of his life when he produced his most vibrant works, ones which express his sense of delight in, and comfort within, the Australian landscape.

The first comprehensive McCubbin exhibition in 18 years, and the first to focus on his later works, *McCubbin: Last Impressions 1907–17* features 72 works from all the major galleries in Australia, including several from the National Gallery of Australia's collection, and 25 rarely publicly displayed works from private collections.

'It has been far too long since works by Frederick McCubbin were exhibited. I'm sure many people will be looking forward to becoming reacquainted with some favourites from this iconic Australian artist and also being introduced to the innovative works from his later years,' said Ron Radford, Director of the National Gallery of Australia.

'It is truly in his last impressions—in the way he captured a radiant light and atmosphere, the serenity of early summer or the glow of afternoon light—that McCubbin made a major contribution,' said Ron Radford.

McCubbin: Last Impressions 1907–17 surveys a range of joyous paintings covering landscapes, seascapes, views of docks and industry, city life, portraits and interiors. It includes some of Australia's greatest works of the Federation period—such as *Violet and gold* 1911 (National Gallery of Australia), *Golden sunlight* 1914 (Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum), *Collins Street* c1915 (Geelong Gallery) and *The old slip, Williamstown* 1915 (private collection)—as well as a number of McCubbin's intimate sketches.

For well over a century, Frederick McCubbin has been one of Australia's best-loved artists. Born in Melbourne in 1855, he was the city's first major painter, and together with other iconic Australian impressionists Tom Roberts, Arthur Streeton and Charles Conder, was a leader in the visual arts in the 1880s and 90s.

In 1907, his work changed radically after he viewed the works of Turner, Constable and Monet on a trip to Europe. McCubbin's subjects became more modern, he painted with brighter colours and his paint handling techniques were more experimental and adventurous—especially in his use of a palette knife.

'Through his later works McCubbin expressed his intense passion for the places he loved and knew well, and showed that Australia—land, sea and city—was a place charged with life,' said Anna Gray, exhibition curator and Head of Australian Art at the National Gallery of Australia.

McCubbin: Last Impressions 1907–17 is part of an extensive program of travelling exhibitions developed by the National Gallery to ensure that people across Australia have access to major exhibitions and the treasures of the National Collection.

This exhibition is proudly sponsored by R.M. Williams, Exhibition Benefactor The Honourable Mrs Ashley Dawson-Damer, Media Partner ABC Local Radio and the Travelling Exhibitions program sponsor, Australian air Express. The National Gallery of Australia is an Australian Government Agency.

The national tour commences 11 December 2009 through to 25 July 2010 and will travel to:

Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA, 11 December 2009 – 29 March 2010

Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo VIC, 24 April to 25 July 2010

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For information regarding the National Gallery and its Travelling Exhibitions Program visit the website:

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