

MEDIA ALERT

27 November 2014

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

Rick Amor 21 Portraits

Rick Amor 21 Portraits will open to the public this Friday. The exhibition brings together paintings, prints and drawings spanning Rick Amor's thirty year career, confirming his status as one of Australia's great portrait artists.

Director Angus Trumble invites the media to view the exhibition at 11.00am on Thursday 27 November at the National Portrait Gallery.

Mr Trumble said 'It is wonderful to see the portraits of a single artist represented in an exhibition, especially one of Rick Amor's calibre.'

Rick Amor (b. 1948) has been a quiet presence in the Australian art scene for three decades. Alongside his consistent portrait practice, Amor is known particularly for his skill as a painter, creating enigmatic, ominous landscapes and cityscapes. *21 Portraits* evokes Amor's broader practice: his professional commissions, his artistic circle in Melbourne, his periods abroad, his stern self-analysis and his brooding visions of the natural and built environment. The exhibition includes portraits of artists, poets, writers as well as four self portraits, reflecting Amor's broad interest in culture, politics and the written word.

Rick Amor has spent much of his artistic career working in Melbourne. Winning many prizes and grants, from 1975 to 1983 he produced a series of cartoons attacking the Fraser government, receiving valuable support from union members during a period of severe financial difficulty. After 1983 he began to paint more personal and emotionally charged works for which he has become known. In 1999, as Australia's first official war artist since Vietnam, he travelled to East Timor to document the devastated land and the reconstruction efforts of peacekeepers. The resulting works are in the collection of the Australian War Memorial.

A regular exhibitor and finalist in the Archibald prize, Amor's works are held in all major public collections in Australia. In 2008, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne held a survey show of Rick Amor's paintings and drawings.

The National Portrait Gallery's latest exhibition, *Rick Amor 21 Portraits*, draws portraits from both private collections and the Portrait Gallery's own collection.

Director Angus Trumble invites the media to preview the exhibition at 11.00am on Thursday 27 November at the National Portrait Gallery. Rick Amor and Curator Sarah Engledow will be available for interview.

Rick Amor 21 Portraits from 28 November 2014 – 1 March 2015

Media viewing

11.00am Thursday
27 November 2014

National Portrait Gallery,
King Edward Terrace,
Parkes, Canberra

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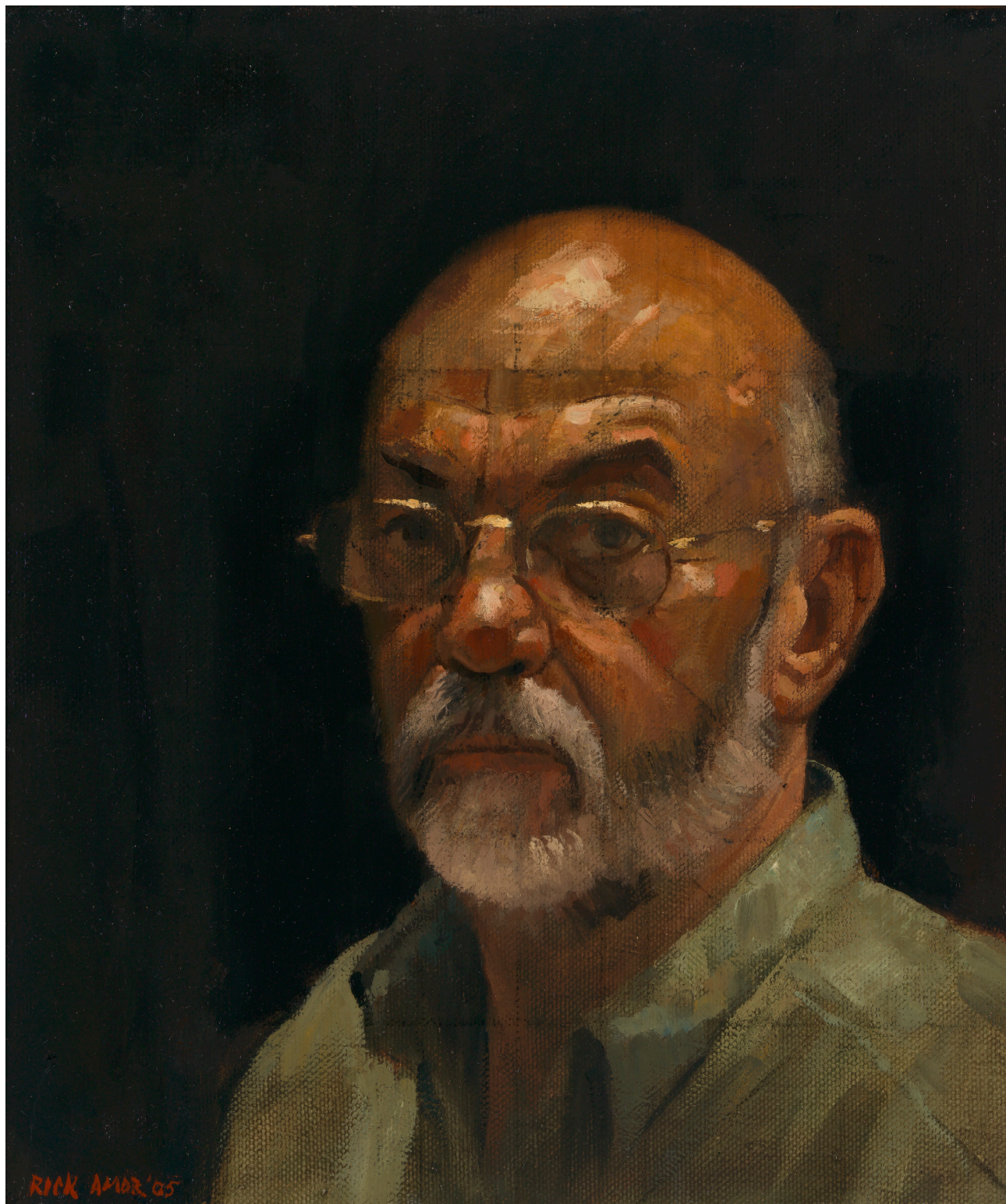
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**NATIONAL
PORTRAIT
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Rick Amor 21 Portraits

Media viewing 11.00am Thursday 27 November 2014
National Portrait Gallery, King Edward Terrace, Canberra

Self portrait 2005 by Rick Amor
oil on canvas
National Portrait Gallery
Gift of Patrick Corrigan AM 2008
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Government's Cultural Gifts Program