

MEDIA RELEASE

28 June 2016



Image: The Mount of Olives, 1987, Franz Kempf

Celebrating the work of artist Franz Kempf Aspects of a Journey

The State Library of South Australia is pleased to present ***Aspects of a Journey*** an exhibition celebrating the work of Adelaide artist Franz Kempf. Partnering with the 2016 SALA Festival, the exhibition is a reflection of Franz Kempf's past and present work. See paintings and prints drawn largely from Kempf's personal collection from the late 1940s.

Celebrating his 90th birthday, this exhibition reflects aspects of Kempf's journey through a world of imaginations, of light and darkness, of war, death, chaos and national disaster.

On display are over 40 original paintings and prints by Kempf which speak about the grand themes of life and common circumstances of humanity. Described as both complex and visual, his work shows emotion and historical breadth. The works have come directly from the walls of Kempf's personal studio to be displayed at the State Library of South Australia.

Works of significance include *The Outrageous Has Become Commonplace (2003)*, for which Kempf was awarded the 2013 Blake Prize for Human Justice. Also, *The Jerusalem Tapestry (1994)*, a collaboration with the Victorian Tapestry Workshop, strikes an impressive pose in the Institute

Gallery. Other works on display include the *The Mount of Olives (1987)*, *Figuration in a Garden (1973)*, *On a Summer's Day (1968)*, *Interior with Paining Köln (2014)* and *Troubled Waters, Murray Series II (1993)*.

Reflecting on his work, **Franz Kempf** comments, "Commencing each new work is not unlike setting off on a journey. There is a sense of anticipation, expectation and at times a feeling of dread. One has in mind the destination, but encounters many entrancing and disturbing moments along the way. I'd like to think that in the completed work some of this is evident to the perceptive viewer. By producing images I am able to chart a course for myself through a world less than ideal and one that I feel to be very intangible."

Alan Smith, Director State Library of South Australia comments, "It is a privilege to celebrate this impressive volume of work by internationally recognised Adelaide-based artist, Franz Kempf. His contribution to the visual arts over the decades is significant."

The exhibition, *Aspects of a Journey* is on display in the Institute Building at the State Library of South Australia until the 14 August 2016.

About Franz Kempf AM

Franz Kempf is a prominent Adelaide artist who has contributed to the visual arts through teaching, leadership roles in arts organisations, writing on printmaking and most importantly through his art practice. Born in Melbourne, he studied at the National Gallery School and later in Italy, Austria and England. He taught printmaking at the South Australian School of Art for over a decade in the 1970s.

His international recognition led him to exhibit widely with over 90 solo exhibition and guest lecturing at key art schools in the UK. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society UK and in 2002 was awarded The Order of Australia Medal for his contribution to the arts. In 2013, he received the Blake Prize for Human Justice. He continues to exhibit regularly, nationally and internationally.

His works are treasured in over 40 public collections across Australia, China, Israel, the UK Holland, as well as in innumerable private collections.

EXHIBITION DETAILS:

Franz Kempf – Aspects of a Journey

On display until 14 August 2016

Open 10am – 5pm daily. Closed public holidays

Institute Building, Gallery and Ante Room

Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue

Free entry

EXHIBITION PARTNER:

SALA – South Australian Living Artists Festival

SALA

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