



GW BOT, *Tree of life III*, 2009, cast bronze, 100 x 200 x 30 cm (irregular), cast by Nick Stranks, Sculpture Workshop, ANU School of Art, Canberra, courtesy the artist

Media Release

Immersed in 'Abstract Nature' at Samstag

Abstract Nature brings twenty renowned Australian artists to the Samstag Museum of Art, in a major exhibition that considers contemporary Australian art from an original, fresh perspective. The selected artists all engage with the natural world as their subject, and they employ an artistic language that guest curator Margot Osborne describes as 'organic abstraction' – an art grounded in the forms and patterns found within nature, and the connection between self and a wider biological universe.

Possibly the first exhibition of its kind in Australia, *Abstract Nature* presents over fifty intriguing and elegant works of art across a remarkably wide range of media, by Nyukana Baker/Robin Best, Giles Bettison, Julie Blyfield, GW Bot, Tim Burns, Pippin Drysdale, Philip Hunter, Jessica Loughlin, Djambawa Marawili, Wanyubi Marika, Leslie Matthews, Julie Ryder, Jenny Sages, Catherine Truman, Angela Valamanesh, Regina Wilson, Shona Wilson, Richard Woldendorp and Catherine Woo.

Several of the participating artists are from South Australia, including three who have had long associations with the internationally respected Gray Street Workshop, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Julie Blyfield, Leslie Matthews and Catherine Truman have all produced new work for this exhibition.

Many of the artworks in *Abstract Nature* reflect the artists' deep response to specific places in the Australian environment that are, for them, imbued with beauty and special meaning, while others are intuitive responses to the forms and textures of the natural world.

The fragility of our ecology is an implicit concern in such a project, and the Samstag Museum has embraced this environmental issue by publishing its first e-catalogue, which includes Margot Osborne's exhibition essay *The Nature of Things: thoughts on organic abstraction, beauty and immanence*; reflections on life, art and beauty that underpin the curator's thoughtful selection of works.

A floor talk by the exhibition curator in conversation with *Abstract Nature* artists, is a **special event** to complement the exhibition on **Saturday 31 July 2010 at 3pm**.

Abstract Nature opens 30 July and continues until 8 October 2010. Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 11–5pm, Saturday and Sunday 2–5pm.

For information contact Erica Green on 08 8302 0870 or visit unisa.edu.au/samstagmuseum