MEDIA RELEASE: New work by PETER HUDSON

For Immediate release: May 2012



Peter Hudson's career spans over 40 years and illustrates a lifetime of creative collaborations with Australia's finest. His Portraits of songwriters Archie Roach (Took the Children Away) and Neil Murray (My Island Home) hang in the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra. Paul Kelly's portrait featured in the Archibald prize, the famous song inspired a collaborative book *From* Little things Big things Grow, Illustrated by Hudson and the kids of Kalkarindji and Drguragu, the home of the Vincent Lingirai and the Gurindji people. The book sparked the creation of the Iconic Song Books, Published by One Day Hill with Archie Roach and Shane Howard (Solid **Rock**) and Neil Murray, the project took the artist and musicians on extraordinary adventures, travelling from outback communities and across traditional lands, strengthening ties between cultures along the way.

These meetings and journeys gave the artist a deep sense of the spiritual connectedness between all cultures; between land, air and spirit.

"Peter Hudson's work reminds us that everything has a relationship- even the most disparate elements and entities have a connection. Birds inhabit the air as fish inhabit water. The quickening blood of their secret heart and gills are the same. Moon dances with both of them. It is as first nation people attest; that to attend closely to the workings of nature is to glimpse the divine conductor, to see the love at work and to better know ourselves."

Neil Murray 2012

Beautifully illustrated in this new body of work is a journey from South to North, along the East Coast of Qld, undertaken last year when Neil Murray and the artist (on a research trip for another project). *The East Coast Encounter 1770* took them driving and talking around many campfires about previous journeys, stopping specifically where Captain Cook once came ashore. Respectful of how these landings were perceived by and affected the indigenous populations, the artist tells the tale through the eyes of the onlookers - the fish, the birds, the moon reflected in the water.

To this day, the mountains bear two names, one ancient and one given more recently. This duality and the harmony in between are evident in the works.

Peter Hudson has exhibited in over 20 solo exhibitions, and is included in numerous private and public collections including National Portrait Gallery, MAGNT, Ken Hinds, Moreton Bay Council, Sunshine Coast Council, Warnambool City Gallery and othersHe has illustrated numerous books, including the cover art for books by Frank Hardy, Neil Murray and Martin Flanagan.

Image captions: Peter Hudson Gus George, 2012, watercolour, pastel, charcoal, wax and acrylic on board Peter Hudson, Tibberoowuccum (glasshouse mountains), 2012, oil on board Peter Hudson, Remembering Sydney Parkinson (sml) 2012, oil on board

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Woolloongabba Art Gallery