



Art Gallery
of Western Australia

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mediaRelease

Grace Crowley: being modern

Grace Crowley: being modern, a National Gallery of Australia Travelling Exhibition, is an important retrospective exhibition of paintings and drawings, by one of Australia's most influential modern artists.

This showcase of important works is the first of Grace Crowley's work to be exhibited since 1975. It includes works from public and private collections and traces her remarkable artistic journey from traditional landscapes to avant-garde experimentation and pure abstraction. The exhibition includes several recently rediscovered paintings and the largest number of Crowley's abstract paintings ever assembled, enabling a new appraisal of her achievement.

'Grace Crowley was remarkable for her commitment to making modern art in Australia in spite of opposition from the conservative local art world. The end result of this commitment was the production of beautiful and engaging paintings, which can be enjoyed by visitors to this exhibition', says Melissa Harpley, the Art Gallery of Western Australia's Curator of Historical Art.

Born in rural New South Wales in 1890, Grace Crowley's life and art intersected with some of the major movements in 20th-century art. In 1926 Crowley left Sydney for Paris where she studied with the cubist painter André Lhote. On her reluctant return to Sydney she became an influential teacher, introducing a style of abstraction based on cubist principles. In the 1940s, Grace Crowley and fellow painter Ralph Balson were the first Australian artists to entirely abandon representation, devoting themselves to the pursuit of pure 'objective' painting.

***Grace Crowley: being modern* will be on display at the Art Gallery of Western Australia from Saturday 14 June - Sunday 21 September 2008.**

Grace Crowley
Abstract painting 1953
oil on hardboard
State Art Collection,
Art Gallery of Western Australia
Bequest of the artist 1979



national gallery of **australia**
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