



MOSMAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Mosman Art Gallery & Community Centre

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MEDIA RELEASE

Date:	11 August 2011
Subject:	<i>Lineage: David Fairbairn Selected Portraits 1998-2010</i>
Date of Release:	For Immediate Release
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“Lineage: David Fairbairn Selected Portraits 1998-2010”

Mosman Art Gallery

10 September– 19 October, 2011



David Fairbairn,
Large head W.C.F. No. 1, 2007



David Fairbairn,
Large head V.H. No 2, 2009

Mosman Art Gallery is proud to present this unique exhibition spanning twelve years of David Fairbairn's recent art practice, focussing on his signature style and artworks — his large scale expressive portraits. Accompanied by medium and smaller sized works, this exhibition reveals the dedication, skill and insight into portraiture that confirms David Fairbairn to be one of Australia's leading contemporary draughtsmen.

David Fairbairn has enjoyed a successful art career since the mid 1970s. He has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions extensively and is represented by commercial galleries in Melbourne and Sydney. The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, the Dobell Drawing Prize and the Kedumba Drawing Award are just some of the many accolades that Fairbairn has been awarded attesting to the significance of his work and practice.

Please note all information is correct at time of release

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David Fairbairn defines himself first and foremost as a draughtsman, not a painter. *Lineage* is aptly titled, referring both to the thread of imagery within the exhibition, and the strong physicality of the Fairbairn's robust use of line. His compelling images incorporate an array of art media, however it is his line work that unifies the disparate elements within his images.

Fairbairn's history as an artist goes back to his early childhood years. He was born in 1949 in Zambia, South Africa. He subsequently spent most of his first nine years in West Africa, prior to attending boarding school in England. His father was a mining engineer, based in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Liberia. It was this association with African culture that led to a broad interest in African art, which in turn resulted in his strong appreciation for Oceanic, Aboriginal and Papua New Guinea art and culture.

These early cultural influences have informed David Fairbairn's art practice, in particular traditional tribal masks. Two such masks originally owned by his father, have since been handed down to the artist and now hang in his home, a constant reminder of his personal history and a strong influence on his early portraits.

Lineage is a comprehensive body of work forming an impressive exhibition, which clearly illustrates David Fairbairn's mastery use of line, the power and immediacy of his mark, and his unique insights into the human condition.

The exhibition will be opened by Hendrik Kolenberg, Senior Curator of Prints, drawings and watercolours, Art gallery of NSW, on Friday 9 September, 2011 at 6.30pm

"Lineage: David Fairbairn Selected Portraits 1998-2010" is a Campbelltown Arts Centre travelling exhibition, curated by Renée Porter.

Exhibition Public Program



Free Exhibition Tour

Saturday 1st October, 11am

Presented by the Mosman Art Gallery Guides

Meet the Artist: Exhibition Floortalk

Sunday 11 September, 11.00 am

Join the artist David Fairbairn for an exhibition floor talk and overview of his particular interest in the human condition explored through large scale expressive portraiture. Free admission. Tea and coffee included.

Bookings online: <http://www.trybooking.com/13191>

"A distorted point of view" Master Class with David Fairbairn

Sunday 25th September, 2011, 10am – 4pm

If you have an interest in drawing and want to extend your creative and experimental potential then come along to this one-off workshop based on self portraiture with a difference. The artist will guide participants through a series of creative exercises and techniques to create expressive portraits based on your hand, touch, thoughts and instinct. All levels of experience are welcome.

Cost: \$100.00 per participant. \$90.00 (Friends of the Gallery)

12 places available (Minimum 6 people required for workshops)

Materials: to be supplied by participants

Bookings online: <http://www.trybooking.com/13192>

For further media enquiries please contact:

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