

CITATION DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR GERARD SUTTON, VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG, ON THE OCCASION OF THE ADMISSION OF GUY WILKIE WARREN TO THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF CREATIVE ARTS HONORIS CAUSA ON 30 SEPTEMBER 1998.

Chancellor I present Guy Wilkie Warren

Guy Warren was born in Goulburn, New South Wales, on 16 April 1921. His life story is intertwined with the events and personalities of Australia and its art world in this century. His parents were both musicians and his father was a "picture show man", playing piano for the silent movies. The advent of both the Depression and the "talkies" affected Guy's family fortunes. He left Sydney Boys' High at fourteen and was fortunate to find work as a proof-reader's assistant with the "Bulletin" which has its own special place in our history as the then publisher of eminent Australian artists and writers.

Guy began to study art part-time but his studies were interrupted by the Second World War. He served his country for five years with the AIF in New Guinea and Bougainville, drawing in his tent in the midst of what he has described as the "hellish place" of war. At the end of the war, the images of the Pacific islands remained in his artistic imagination. Over the following years, the enthusiasm and commitment which took Guy through the war, his style and organisational skill and his exceptional artistic talent combined to enrich Australian art, education and this University.

In 1946, Guy Warren enrolled at East Sydney Tech. (now the National Art School) as an ex-serviceman studying art under the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Training Scheme. In 1950 he married his wife Joyce and they travelled to Europe where, despite plans for a short visit, they stayed for 8 years. By all accounts this was an exciting, convivial time. Guy worked as an art editor on Fleet St; enjoyed the renaissance in the art world of post-war London, and shared a large Victorian terrace house with other artists, including a young actress, Ruth Cracknell, who lived in the basement flat.

Guy returned to Australia in 1959. During the 1960s, he worked "freelance" for a time, painting, teaching and travelling. He won several art prizes and was commissioned to draw four portraits for the first issue of decimal currency in Australia. In 1968 Lloyd Rees invited him to teach at Sydney University where he became the first full-time Director of Sydney

University Art Workshops - better known as that experimental and inspirational space, the "Tin Sheds". Guy also worked with students to help Christo wrap up Little Bay - again a defining moment in Australian social and art history.

In 1975 and after long membership of the Planning Committee, Guy became Principal Lecturer and Head of the Department of Painting at the new Sydney College of the Arts. He retired from that position after 10 years in 1985. He has served on the New South Wales Board of Senior School Studies and the NSW Premier's Cultural Grants Advisory Council. He is currently the Director of the University of Wollongong Art Collection and is warmly recognised by our Faculty of Creative Arts for his support.

It is a tribute to the scope of his talent and the level of his energy that Guy Warren, prominent educator, mentor and critic, has been able to remain in the forefront of Australian contemporary art for the freshness and enthusiasm of his own painting. In 1985 he won the Archibald Prize for a portrait of Bert Flugelman. He has held over 40 solo exhibitions and contributed works to the Wynne and Dobell prizes. Many of his works are held in public and private collections and are exhibited internationally as well as in the Australian National Gallery and in state galleries. Guy has been praised for the spontaneity of his work; for the richness of colour and form derived from his encounters with the lushness of the rainforest, begun long ago during the war years.

Chancellor, today we honour a fine artist, citizen and teacher. We applaud his talent and his contribution to the growth of Australian art and we thank him for sharing his knowledge with us at this University.

It is my great privilege to present Guy Wilkie Warren for the award of Doctor of Creative Arts honoris causa.