



Media Release: John Rigby's Lifetime of Art

Release Date:	12 October 2022
Exhibition Dates:	9 – 27 November 2022
Opening Times:	Tue – Sun, 10am – 3.30pm (closed Mondays)
Where:	Royal Queensland Art Society, 3/162 Petrie Terrace, Brisbane
Entry:	Free

November will provide Brisbane art lovers with a unique opportunity to experience a lifetime of creative endeavour by artist John Thomas Rigby (1922–2012). Rigby was one of Queensland's leading art figures during the second half of the 20th century and an exhibition at the Royal Queensland Art Society (RQAS) will showcase about 80 of his artworks.

The exhibition is an opportunity to enjoy his art with a 'walk' through the decades and changes in style and colour. Rigby often said, *"I want my art to be like a song ... there's so much depression about, I don't want to add to it."*

Rigby's diverse artworks range from portraits (including two hung in the Archibald Prize), nudes, and genre to landscapes of Brisbane, Queensland, Kakadu and Central Australia, South Pacific locales, Bali, Italy, Egypt, Greece, and more. Some early art from his teenage years includes a painting sold at an RQAS 1941 Annual Exhibition. His final two works also feature in the exhibition – *Deadman's Beach* on North Stradbroke Island and a drawing of his wife Margaret, a favourite subject for 60 years.

Apart from his lifelong endeavours in fine art, Rigby was a commercial artist until 1972, a Trustee of the Queensland Art Gallery for 18 years helping guide its move from Gregory Terrace to temporary premises, and finally to South Bank. He was officer-in-charge of fine art at the Queensland College of Art for 10 years. For more than 50 years, he conducted art classes throughout the state and judged many art prizes, including at the RNA show.

Rigby joined the Royal Queensland Art Society as a junior member in 1941 and was made an Honorary Member in 2001. In 1994, Griffith University awarded Rigby an Honorary Doctorate for his services to the arts and in 2003 he was made a Companion of the Queensland Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Artworks and ephemera in the exhibition are drawn primarily from the personal collections of John Rigby's children Mark, Renée and Tony as they reflect on the 10th anniversary of their father's passing and celebrate the upcoming 100th anniversary of his birth on 9 December 2022. At least one of them will be in attendance throughout the exhibition period to answer questions and reminisce about their father and his art.

Many of the artworks are available for sale with part of the proceeds going to the Royal Queensland Art Society.

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Royal Queensland Art Society exhibition page:

[John Rigby's Lifetime of Art - Royal QLD Art Society \(rgas.com.au\)](http://rgas.com.au)

Further information on John Rigby and his art is available at:

www.johnrigbyart.com.au

Biographical material is available via the *Background* tab on the website.

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