

Citation for Mr Jeffrey Smart

Graduation: Wednesday 24 August 2011 at 3.00 pm



Officiator:	Dr Ian Gould AM
Award recipient:	Mr Jeffrey Smart (Absentia)
Award being conferred:	Honorary Doctor of the University of South Australia (DUniv)
Citation delivered by:	Professor Pal Ahluwalia BA(Adv), MA, PhD, FASSA

Chancellor, the University of South Australia awards the Honorary Doctorate Degree to a person of eminence who has made a distinguished contribution to public service or a field of academic endeavour. It is my pleasure to present to you Mr Jeffrey Smart AO for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University (in absentia), in recognition of his long and distinguished career spanning more than sixty years that has justly earned him the recognition as one of Australia's greatest living artists. His paintings depicting the human experience in contemporary urban environments are iconic and are greatly valued by an admiring Australian arts community. This is testament to the consistency of his artistic vision and the sustained high skill of his work, technically.

Mr Smart is considered one of Australia's greatest living artists with an unrivalled body of work distinguished by his capacity to reveal the beauty in the mundane and modern.

His achievements over six decades were recognised in 2006 when he was awarded the prestigious Painters and Sculptors Association Medal, an honour he shares with the likes of John Olsen, John Coburn, Charles Blackman, and Arthur Boyd.

Yet, in the words of Art Gallery of NSW Director Edmund Capon: *"In the story of modern Australian art Jeffrey Smart stands alone."*

As a previous student of the Adelaide Teacher's College and the South Australian School of Arts and Craft, his career began in Adelaide but inevitably took him to the US, to Paris and eventually to Italy, where he has lived for more than 40 years.

Yet he still considers himself very much an Australian, and he has held more than 45 exhibitions here since 1967. A retrospective of his work at the Art Gallery of NSW in 1999 was one of the most popular exhibitions by an Australian artist in the gallery's history.

Jeffrey Smart's practice reflects his profound interest in the relationship between the constructed environment and people.

His work can be found in the collections of significant public galleries around the world, from the National Gallery of Australia to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Chancellor, on behalf of the University of South Australia, I am pleased to present Mr Jeffrey Smart AO for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University (in absentia), in recognition of his long and distinguished career spanning more than sixty years that has justly earned him the recognition as one of Australia's greatest living artists.