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Title:
Speech at unveiling of Hepworth sculpture, Adelaide Festival Centre

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR DUNSTAN, AT UNVEILING OF HEPWORTH SCULPTURE.

ADELAIDE FESTIVAL CENTRE. 24.10.73

MY LORD MAYOR, MR BAILY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ASKING ME HERE TODAY.

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE AT THE OUTSET THAT WE MAY ALL BE BACK AGAIN QUITE SOON.

IN RECENT WEEKS AN ADDITIONAL \$100,000 HAS BEEN PROMISED TO THE ADELAIDE FESTIVAL CENTRE TRUST BY INDIVIDUALS AND FIRMS FOR WORKS OF ART FOR THE FESTIVAL CENTRE.

SEVERAL MAJOR COMMISSIONS ARE NOW BEING NEGOTIATED WITH LOCAL, INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS ARTISTS AND DETAILS OF THESE WILL BE MADE PUBLIC LATER.

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THIS MEANS THAT WE'LL VERY SOON HAVE HERE NOT ONLY ONE OF THE WORLD'S OUTSTANDING CENTRES FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS - AND THAT'S NOT HYPERBOLIC IT'S WHAT INTERNATIONAL CRITICS ARE SAYING - BUT A SUPERB SHOWCASE OF THE VISUAL ARTS AS WELL.

THE MAGNIFICENT HEPWORTH YOU'LL SEE SHORTLY WOULD BE A PRIZE IN ANY COMPANY. BUT I THINK YOU'LL AGREE THAT THE PRESENT COMPANY IS WORTHY OF IT.

OTHER WORKS AT PRESENT INSTALLED IN THE FESTIVAL THEATRE INCLUDE THE 12 LANDSCAPE PANELS IN OILS BY MELBOURNE ARTIST FRED WILLIAMS WHICH HANG IN THE STALLS FOYERS.

THESE WERE COMMISSIONED AT A COST OF \$30,000 WITH MONEY OVERSUBSCRIBED TO THE PUBLIC APPEAL.

THEY HAVE BEEN ACCLAIMED BY LEADING AUSTRALIAN CRITICS AS BEING AMONG THE FINEST WORKS YET DONE BY THIS ARTIST.

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MOST OF THEM RECALL AND ARE INSPIRED BY A VISIT FRED WILLIAMS MADE TO THE RIVERLAND AREA OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA ALONG THE MURRAY NEAR LOXTON. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE A PERSONAL JUDGEMENT I THINK THEY'RE WORKS OF GENIUS. WE ALSO HAVE A SUPERB NOLAN THE TWO-PIECE MURAL 'RAINBOW SERPENT' WHICH HANGS ON THE FIRST BALCONY FOYER WALLS OF THE THEATRE, COMPRISING 324 INDIVIDUAL PAINTINGS. THE 'RAINBOW SERPENT' IS ON PERMANENT LOAN TO THE THEATRE FROM THE ARTIST. THEY ARE VALUED AT WELL OVER \$50,000. THEN THERE'S THE TAPESTRY, 'NIGHT' BY JOHN COBURN, DESIGNER OF THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE HOUSE CURTAINS AND VALUED AT \$4,000, A GIFT FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WINE-MAKING HARDY FAMILY AND THE FIRST GIFT OF A WORK OF ART TO THE THEATRE.

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MAX LYLE'S \$8,000 ENVIRONMENTAL SCULPTURE IN STAINLESS STEEL, IS UNDER THE MAIN STAIRCASE IN THE STALLS ENTRANCE FOYER OF THE THEATRE. THIS SCULPTURE IS A GREAT FAVOURITE AMONG VISITORS TO THE THEATRE AND HAS BEEN ACCLAIMED BY CRITICS AS AN EXCELLENT ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM SPACE WHERE IT IS POSITIONED. IT WAS FINANCED PARTLY BY A SPECIAL GOVERNMENT GRANT - THE REST FROM THE PUBLIC APPEAL FUND.

'YELLOW BETWEEN', A PAINTED STEEL SCULPTURE BY ONE OF BRITAIN'S LEADING MODERN SCULPTORS, PHILLIP KING, IS ON PERMANENT LOAN FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE BRITISH INDUSTRIALIST AND ART COLLECTOR, ALISTAIR McALPINE. THE PRESENT COLLECTION IS COMPLETED BY THE FIVE COSTUME DESIGNS BY AUSTRALIA'S LEADING INTERNATIONAL THEATRE DESIGNER, LOUDON SAINTHILL WHO DIED IN LONDON IN 1969. THEY ARE AMONG THE FINEST DONE BY THIS AUSTRALIAN ARTIST DURING 18 YEARS IN WHICH HE WORKED IN THEATRE, OPERA, BALLET, FILM, REVUE, PANTOMIME AND MUSICALS IN LONDON.

THE DESIGNS WILL EVENTUALLY HANG IN THE FESTIVAL THEATRE RESTAURANT.
THEY ARE PART OF A GIFT FROM A LEADING ADELAIDE BUSINESSMAN.

ENTER NOW THE HEPWORTH - A GREAT ACQUISITION.

'ULTIMATE FORM' WAS THE MAJOR PIECE IN A SERIES OF SCULPTURES CREATED IN 1971 ENTITLED 'FAMILY OF MAN'. VALUED AT \$30,000, IT WAS BOUGHT - AS WITH THE WILLIAMS - WITH PART OF THE \$65,000 OVERSUBSCRIBED BY THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA TO THE PUBLIC APPEAL TOWARDS THE COST OF THE FESTIVAL THEATRE.

THERE ARE SIX CASTS OF 'ULTIMATE FORM' IN EXISTENCE. OF THE ORIGINAL EDITIONS OF 'FAMILY OF MAN', ONE COMPLETE SET WAS SOLD AS A GROUP, TWO SETS WERE RETAINED BY THE ARTIST AND THREE SETS WERE AVAILABLE FOR SALE INDIVIDUALLY.

THE GROUP OF SCULPTURES IS THE LARGEST YET UNDERTAKEN BY DAME BARBARA HEPWORTH, ACKNOWLEDGED AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST LIVING SCULPTORS, AND ARE PERFECT EXAMPLES OF THE ARTIST'S DESIRE FOR HER SCULPTURES TO BECOME PART OF THE LANDSCAPE.

INDIVIDUALLY, AND AS A GROUP, THEY ARE DESIGNED FOR OUTDOOR SETTINGS.

IN DAME BARBARA'S OWN WORDS "THEY BELONG TO HEAVEN AND EARTH". THE

GROUP OF NINE UNITS MAKING 'FAMILY OF MAN', IS DOMINATED BY THE

'ULTIMATE FORM'.

THE SCULPTURE WAS SHIPPED TO AUSTRALIA FREE OF CHARGE BY THE P & O COMPANY AS A GESTURE TO THE FESTIVAL THEATRE.

IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT EXAMPLE OF DAME BARBARA HEPWORTH'S SCULPTURE YET BROUGHT TO AUSTRALIA.

'ULTIMATE FORM' HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS SIMULTANEOUSLY ABSTRACT AND FIGURATIVE.

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IT EXPRESSES THE COMMON AND ENDURING RELATIONSHIPS OF HUMAN BEINGS, ONE TO THE OTHER.

DAME BARBARA HEPWORTH THIS YEAR CELEBRATED HER 70TH BIRTHDAY AND, IN FAILING HEALTH, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SHE WILL EVER CREATE ANY WORK OF THE SCALE OF 'ULTIMATE FORM' AGAIN.

BARBARA HEPWORTH AND HER LIFE-LONG FRIEND, HENRY MOORE, ONCE HAD TO FIGHT TO HAVE THEIR IDEAS ACCEPTED BUT NOW THEY ARE BOTH ACKNOWLEDGED AS AMONG THE GREATEST ARTISTS OF THE CENTURY.

SHE HAS DESCRIBED 'ULTIMATE FORM' AS REPRESENTING SOMETHING WHICH SHE HAS ALWAYS SOUGHT TO ACHIEVE AS AN IDEAL AND SHE HAS A VERY SPECIAL AFFECTION FOR IT.

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IT IS A WORK WORTHY OF THIS PLACE AND THIS CITY.

I HAVE VERY GREAT PLEASURE AND PRIDE IN NOW UNVEILING IT.

THANK YOU.