



With loans from the National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, other state galleries and major private collections, this exhibition brings together all major works from Williams' first You Yangs series of 1963 to 1964, and several from the second and later series of paintings made between the mid-1960s and 1978.

Fred Williams was born in Richmond, Melbourne, in 1927. He studied at the National Gallery School from 1943-1947, and the George Bell School from 1946-1950. Between 1952 and 1956, Williams lived in London, and, while working as a framer, took evening classes in life drawing and painting at the Chelsea School of Art and etching at the Central Art School. His London period is dominated by figurative work. He returned to Australia in 1957 and redirected his attention to the Australian environment and explored through landscape the endless possibility for formal painterly invention, mark-making and – perhaps most enigmatically, through utter abstraction, an exceptional evocation of the real. He died in 1982.

**Geelong Gallery** has worked closely with the artist's widow, Lyn Williams AM, and with the Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative, representatives of the traditional owners of the You Yangs region in the formation of *Fred Williams in the You Yangs*. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated publication.

Geelong Gallery acknowledges the Wadawurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the You Yangs region.

– Ends –

## Public programming—

### In conversation

**Saturday 19 August, 11am**

Jason Smith, Geelong Gallery Director, and Lyn Williams, widow of the late Fred Williams, in conversation discussing the ground-breaking paintings, drawings and etchings that represent the turning point in Fred Williams's work and legacy.

### Outreach—Rediscovering the You Yangs

**Saturday 7 October, 9.00am to 2.30pm**

To celebrate *Fred Williams in the You Yangs*, Geelong Gallery leads an outreach program visiting the Pirra Homestead in Lara and the You Yangs Regional Park. Join Director, Jason Smith as he explores key sites and the enduring fascination with the You Yangs as a recurring subject in the artist's work. The program will conclude with an en plein air workshop with exhibiting artist, Mark Dober.

### After hours at Geelong Gallery—Fred Williams in the You Yangs

**Friday 13 October 5.30pm to 8.30pm**

To celebrate the exhibition *Fred Williams in the You Yangs* Geelong Gallery's after hours event returns—relax in the Gallery with a guest performer, Steampocket pop up wine and pizza bar and a chance to intimately view this remarkable exhibition at night.

### Fred Williams in virtual reality

Immerse your senses in virtual reality and explore *Fred Williams in the You Yangs*: stand inside one of Fred Williams's paintings, and wander the rugged Australian landscape using virtual reality technology.

## Entry fees—

**Adult** \$16.00 | **Concession** \$12.00 | **Child** \$7.00 | **Members** \$10.00 | **Group (over 10)** \$14.00

## Exhibition sponsors



## Government partners



Geelong Gallery is supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria

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[www.geelonggallery.org.au](http://www.geelonggallery.org.au)

**Geelong  
Gallery**