Echoes of greatness

Nine artists – and a critic – follow in Hans Heysen’s footsteps to reinterpret a landscape that has become one of the sacred sites of modern Australian art.

EXHIBITION

John McDonald

ALL of humanity may be divided into two categories: campers and anti-campers, Terence Cafe says in the former category but I am firmly in the latter. To campers there is nothing better than sleeping under the stars on a lazy night; the smell of campfire smoke coming over a campfire, the creative connection with nature that camping provides. To me it is a way to escape the constraints of modern life. I am a city-dweller and enjoy the patterns of the city, the colour and the rhythm of the city. To me, camping is an escape from the daily routine.

In his 1930s-1960s Australian art was dominated by pastoral scenes. The impact of the Great Depression on rural areas was profound, and the theme of pastoralism became a popular subject for artists. However, in the late 1960s, a new wave of artists emerged, focusing on urban themes and contemporary issues. The exhibition ‘Echoes of greatness’ is a study of Hans Heysen’s art and its influence on later artists. The exhibition explores the ways in which Heysen’s work has been reinterpreted by contemporary artists, and the ways in which his legacy continues to inspire new work. The exhibition includes works by a range of artists, including Neil Game, David Kenna, John McDonald, and others. The works range in style and technique, but all are inspired by Heysen’s work and the landscape it represents. The exhibition runs from November 22 to 23, 2018.