



INGE KING

26 November 1915 - 23 April 2016



Above: Rings of Sotum 2005 - 2006 Heide Museum of Modern Art

Cover: Inge in her studio 2013

National Gallery of Victoria
Monday 9 May 2016 10.30am

Order of Service

Tony Elwood, Director of the National Gallery of Victoria

Jane Eckett, Art Historian, University of Melbourne

Stuart Purves, Director, Australian Galleries

Jo and Angie (Daughters of Inge King)



Singing Angel 2007

Inge King: full circle

Inge King's extraordinary career encapsulated a series of contradictions. Intensely cosmopolitan, shaped by formative experiences in Berlin, Glasgow, London and New York, her mature work nevertheless responded directly to the bush surrounding her home of sixty years at Warrandyte. Her sculptures arose simultaneously from international modernism and from local Australian environments, both natural and urban. With their monumental forms and impeccably smooth surfaces, they appeared products of a high formalist aesthetic. Yet her work refused such compartmentalisation, regularly returning to figuration and the improvised, experimental – even joyful – nature of assemblage. Inge herself wisely accepted these contradictions, chary of rigid theorems. She often observed that art builds on the past, and freely acknowledged her artistic mentors. Many in Australia now likewise credit Inge with inspiring their journeys. Her greatest legacy is the magnificent body of public works animating and defining Melbourne's cultural quarters. Inge's journey has come to an end but her works will continue to rouse, affirm, echo and orbit.

Jane Eckett

Farewell Inge King

A giant in the history of Australian art is sadly no longer amongst us. Inge King, halfway between 100 and 101 departed peacefully with her family in Melbourne on the 23rd April, 2016. I had a privileged and close relationship with this remarkable artist. Her intelligence and no nonsense attitude, accompanied with her kind heart gave me experiences and knowledge in life that I would never have had without the generosity of her wisdom.

Her sculptures and contribution to the arts in this country and beyond is unquestionably significant. The sculpture 'Rings of Saturn' at Heide Museum of Modern Art shows she was emphatically an artist on high. This work is one of Australia's great sculptures and fabulously sited. Inge was a liberated woman, a clear profound thinker and a massive achiever. The wellbeing of Australia's culture is richer for her and she will be very much missed by those that did and did not know her. Those of us that did were touched by her magic. Admiration with respect, hooray Inge King, 1915 - 2016

Stuart Purves
Australian Galleries



Inge, age 3



House & studios, Warrandyte

With Thanks

Inge was a formidable presence in the lives of many, including her family. She was disciplined, courageous, independent, determined, persistent, highly intelligent with a curiosity about the world and an insatiable desire to learn. She could also be critical, blunt, undiplomatic and competitive. Nevertheless, for many she was unequivocally inspirational. She will be greatly missed.

Jo and Angie and their families wish to express our sincere gratitude to the following people:

Tony Elwood, Director of the National Gallery of Victoria
David Hurlston, Senior Curator of Australian Painting, Sculpture
and Decorative Arts to 1980, National Gallery of Victoria
Staff at the National Gallery of Victoria
Jane Eckett, Art Historian, University of Melbourne
Stuart Purves, Director, Australian Galleries and his staff
Jacqui Henshaw, Photographer
Omega Pott and Felix Gong, for providing the music today

We would also like to express special thanks to Katie, Maxine, Lindy and the staff at BUPA Donvale for their devoted care of Inge over the past five years.



Colour image photographed by David Hurstson 2008