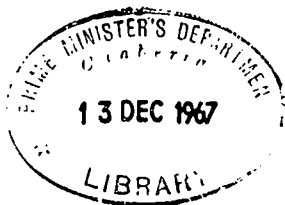


FOR PRESS :



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EXHIBITION OF AUSTRALIAN PAINTING IN INDIA

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Holt

An exhibition of contemporary Australian painting, which will be seen in several Indian cities over the next few weeks, has opened in New Delhi.

The exhibition is being sponsored by the Commonwealth Government in co-operation with the Government of India, the Indian Education Ministry and the Indian Academy of Art.

The exhibition comprises thirty-four paintings. Fourteen have come from the Australian exhibition at EXPO 67 in Montreal and the remainder, with two exceptions, from the National Collection. The exceptions are "The Billy Boy" by William Dobell, lent by the Australian War Memorial, and an Arthur Boyd from a private collection.

The paintings were selected on behalf of the Art Advisory Board by one of its members, Mr Robert Campbell, CMG, OBE.

Mr Campbell, a former Director of the National Gallery of South Australia, will travel in India with the exhibition. After New Delhi, the exhibition will go to Calcutta, Madras and Bombay over a period of about two and a half months.

It is hoped that arrangements can be made for the exhibition to go to Pakistan at the end of the Indian tour.

The exhibition had its origin in the joint communique issued by the Australian Minister for External Affairs and the Indian Minister of External Affairs at the conclusion of Mr Hasluck's visit to India in March, 1966. The communique stated that increased cultural exchanges would offer further opportunities for close constructive friendship between India and Australia. Both Ministers agreed to give immediate attention to developing further means by which these exchanges might be usefully increased.

The exhibition will further this objective and give an insight into the diversity and vigour of contemporary Australian painting.

CANBERRA,
5 December, 1967.