

## **Hannaford and Big hART Celebrate a 28 Year Creative Partnership**

*Hidden and marginalised subjects share moments now preserved in time*

Big hART, Royal South Australian Society of Arts, and State Library SA are honoured to invite community members to the opening of 'Hannaford and Big hART,' an exhibition celebrating the 28 year creative partnership between Australia's most prolific portrait artist, Robert 'Alf' Hannaford, and renowned social change and arts company, Big hART. The opening event will be on Friday 17 November 2023, 6-8pm at Royal SA Society of Arts Gallery, Adelaide. The exhibition is open to the public from Saturday 18 November until 10 December 2023.

The show includes a collection of dynamic and moving realist portraits painted on stage, in rehearsals, in homes, at workplaces and on country by Alf Hannaford to celebrate and elevate the extraordinary people at the centre of Big hART's work. Big hART uses portraiture in its projects as it's a time-honoured way to bestow respect. Having a portrait artist of Hannaford's virtuosity paint people from Australia's most marginalised and hidden communities sends the message that their lives are just as important as the politician's he's known for painting.

Included within this collection are portraits of Kevin Namatjira (Western Aranda); Yindjibarndi Elder Mavis Pat, who lost her son John Pat in police custody which triggered the Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody, Pitjantjatjara actor Trevor Jamieson, seafarers from Big hART's Blue Angel project which looked at slavery at sea; housing commission residents from Northcott in Sydney; Aboriginal young people and Elders from the Pilbara; and at-risk young people from the West Coast of Tasmania and other parts of the country.

Alf says, "I believe in the Big hART cause - using art as a vehicle for liberation from injustice and disadvantage. I had to work quickly, sometimes on stage, to capture the essence of the personalities involved - I believe this brought the best out of me as an artist and I am proud of the work we achieved."

Big hART Creative Director and CEO, Scott Rankin says, "Big hART uses the phrase 'It's harder to hurt someone if you know their story' and so each of these portraits is a story of someone who isn't visible to the broader community. If you're not visible, you can be easily hurt or damaged or discarded, and they are the people Big hART works with and for.

"We have Robert Hannaford - one of Australia's most virtuosic realist painters known for his portraits of Prime Min-



*isters and Governors-General - join our projects to paint portraits of at risk youth from the North West of Tasmania, Elders from Roebourne in the Pilbara, men and women who spend their life on the sea to make sure the latest whitegoods get too us or people from Sydney's most demonised social housing project to make them visible and to have their story told in an artform synonymous with bestowing respect.”*

Robert ‘Alf’ Hannaford is a South Australian Artist who currently lives near Riverton SA with his wife, artist Alison Mitchell. Hannaford was the political cartoonist for the Adelaide Advertiser from 1964 to 1967 but is best known for his realist oil portraiture of well-known subjects like Dame Joan Sutherland, Donald Bradman, Paul Keating, and Bob Hawke. He has won the Doug Moran Portrait Prize and has been selected as a finalist in the Archibald Prize an astounding 27 times, winning the People’s Choice Award 3 times.

Big hART is Australia’s leading arts and social change organisation. Designing and delivering transformative projects to address complex social issues. Partnering with virtuosic artists we bring them into communities to collaborate and create authentic stories which illuminate local injustice. In turn these stories are presented to mainstream audiences to help raise awareness. This approach builds public support for change and helps to protect vulnerable people.

### **Event details:**

**Robert Hannaford and Big hART**

**Opening night Friday 17th November, 6pm – 8pm (\*\*media & invite only)**

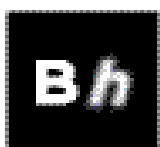
**The exhibition opens to the public from 18 November – 10 December.**

Royal South Australian Society of Arts,

Level 1, Institute Building, Crn North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide

For more information on Robert ‘Alf’ Hannaford visit: <https://www.roberthannaford.com.au/>

For more information on Big hART visit: <https://www.bighart.org/>



**All Media Enquiries to Big hART Media & Communications Manager, Christina Donoghue**  
E: [chris@christinadonoghue.com](mailto:chris@christinadonoghue.com) M: 0405013357  
W: [bighart.org](https://www.bighart.org/)