

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Tony Jones - Eminent West Australian Artist receives Medal of the Order of Australia  
For service to the visual arts as a sculptor and educator**



**Artsource is thrilled to announce that Tony Jones, the West Australian artist has been honoured by receiving an Order of Australia in today's Queen's Birthday Honours list.**

Anthony David Jones' artwork inspires West Australians and tourists every day, yet few people know the man.



Tony's 1999 sculpture of C.Y. O'Connor mounted on his horse at C.Y. O'Connor Beach, North Coogee, was widely acclaimed in 2007 as 'Perth's Best Bit of Public Art', by ABC Radio listeners. His recent 2007 work 'Eliza' in the Swan River at Crawley created to capture the physicality and joyousness of Western Australians has rapidly become the most photographed work of art in Perth and the subject of endless conversations. The migrant figure in front of E Shed Markets with suitcase under his arm being cautiously greeted by a dingo is almost as well known and loved. These are only

a few of the forty or so works of art in the public realm, which show us who we are and tell West Australian's stories with eloquence and elegance.

Artsource describes Tony's approach to projects as *"always encouraging in an infectiously pragmatic way, adding other opportunities where maximum advantage can be gained for as many people as possible whilst still consolidating a project's credibility."* Artsource, who represents the interests of close to 900 artist members and has been operating effectively for 22 years commented that this Honour was due, *"When we think about the people who have made a significant difference to the quality of contemporary art, educational pathways for students and opportunities for the development of the visual landscape in this state, Tony Jones stands out tall. Tony conducts his life and work with vision, unimpeachable integrity and complete consistency"*.

As well as his making public art, Jones who also gained the accolade of WA Citizen of the Year in 2008 for contribution to the Arts, has exhibited his work regularly for over 40 years in galleries; most recently small and large scale sculptures, prints and drawings at *Gallery East*. As a curator he has brought together regional and urban artists to present sculpture to diverse communities, created exhibitions to popular and critical acclaim at the highest levels of the Australian contemporary art circuit and seen his works purchased by private and public collections including those of all the major WA universities.

But it is as a teacher that he is best known to artists. His teaching career spans 43 years beginning in high schools, then 23 years at Claremont School of Art where he became Head of School, to the WA School of Art and Design at Central TAFE where he still teaches. The walls of his East Fremantle house are packed with his students' works, which he has purchased as much to support and encourage them as to enjoy the products of their imagination.

Not happy to stop there, Tony's contribution to our community extends into arts governance, policy development and initiatives through his numerous involvements on arts organisations' boards, funding panels and setting up artists' groups. Deeply interested in supporting emerging artists as well as upholding and extending high quality professional practices, Tony Jones has been the unswerving voice of reason, quietly and consistently making itself heard for over 40 years in WA.