

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

NO. 22  
FOR RELEASE:  
March 11, 1977

## AUSTRALIAN ARTIST HAS FIRST ONE-MAN SHOW AT MUSEUM

FRED WILLIAMS: LANDSCAPES OF A CONTINENT, an exhibition of 40 gouaches of the Australian terrain, will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from March 11 through May 8, 1977. Although Williams is well-known in Australia, this is his first exhibition in New York.

The exhibition consists of works on paper done quickly after study, and out-of-doors. The drawings present one view or the same view seen at varied times of day on single or separate sheets. While at first they may seem abstract, each represents a specific site, seen from land and sea, or sometimes from the air.

"Australia is the oldest continent in the world," says William S. Lieberman, Director of the exhibition. "The immensity and contrasts of its landscapes, the vastness of its skies are too infrequently appreciated even by the Australians themselves. Most of the population disdains the interior and hugs the shore. But a few miles from cosmopolitan cities, glimpses of an extraordinary world may readily be seen."

Among the locations which Williams has recorded are the You Yangs, a steep range of hills peopled with gum trees, the Aboriginal graves at Tibooburra, Flinders Island, the Yarra and Murray rivers, and the small island Erith.

Williams, who was born in 1927, lives in a suburb of Melbourne. He studied for six years in England at the Chelsea Arts School. It was upon his return to Australia that Williams was "struck by how odd the Australian landscape was" and began to make the landscape the subject of his art. "I will never paint anywhere but in Australia because I know Australia," he has said. "It would be impossible for me to paint anywhere else. I must be inside looking out-- not outside looking in."

---

Photographs, color transparencies and additional information available from Michael Boodro, Assistant, or Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Tel. 956-7504; 7501.