

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE
CAIRNS REGIONAL GALLERY COLLECTION

JUNE 2011

KEVIN CONNOR: *Madrid Dream* 1970

Donated to the Gallery Collection by Ray Crooke through the
Commonwealth Cultural Gifts Program, 2011

Born in Sydney in 1932, Kevin Connor has been the recipient of some of Australia's most prestigious awards - the Archibald Prize (twice), the Sulman Prize and the Dobell Prize winner for drawing. Kevin Connor's work predominantly focuses on the figure in urban settings. Connor began his career at age 15 working as a commercial artist and like others of his generation studied drawing and painting at East Sydney Technical College. From 1954 Connor travelled extensively throughout Europe, being influenced by the environment of the inner city in places like London and Paris. Upon his return to Australia, Connor found that inner city Sydney and particularly the Haymarket area provided the source material for his work. Connor continued to travel throughout his career. In 2006 the Art Gallery of New South Wales honoured Connor with an exhibition of his sketchbooks, drawings and prints detailing his travels. Connor remains a significant artist by being one of very few artists concentrating on the figure within an urban context.

Currently the Gallery holds five works by Connor; a screen print titled 'Haymarket Station, (1974)', 3 small figure drawings dating from 1972 and a painting 'Figure in a black room (1972)'. The addition of *Madrid Dream* contextualises the small drawings of the period and develops Connor's oeuvre within the Gallery Collection.

The work:

Over a period of years from the late 1960's to mid 1970's Connor concentrates on figures in enclosed spaces, of which '*Madrid Dream*' is evidence. The title alludes to a memory of the time spent within the city and is characteristic of these intimate memories of travelling.



Kevin CONNOR *Madrid Dream* 1970
oil on board (masonite) 610mm x 760mm



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