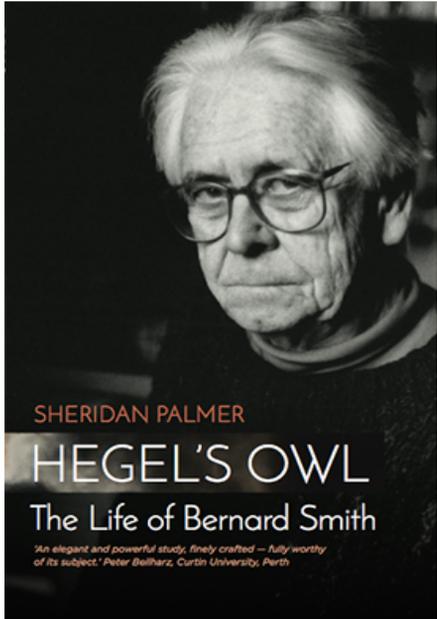




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Sheridan Palmer's landmark biography of Bernard Smith launches at the Victorian Artists' Society, site of 'The Antipodeans' exhibition of 1959

'Better to make history than to write about it. What is needed is a brotherhood of some kind, compact, devoted, with a colourful title . . .'

Bernard Smith, letter to Robin Boyd, 1957

Copies & contact

Review copies of the book and high resolution photographs of the launch are available on request.

For enquiries, or to arrange an interview with Sheridan Palmer or Bernard's granddaughter, Kate Challis, please contact Power Publications:

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Bernard Smith's 'brotherhood' was to become the famous group of Australian artists called The Antipodeans, and Smith was to write their manifesto.

'The Antipodeans' exhibition in 1959 was a watershed moment for Australian art. The exhibition included work by Charles Blackman, Arthur Boyd, David Boyd, John Brack, Robert Dickerson, John Perceval, Clifton Pugh and, of course, Bernard Smith.

But this is just one of Smith's significant contributions to the history of Australian art, and one of many instances where he sought to highlight the importance of contemporary Australian art and communicate its role in society.

Palmer says, 'Bernard was emphatic that Australian artists had to retain their autonomy, their difference.'

And Bernard is someone who understood the value of a different perspective, having begun his life as a ward of the State. He would go on to be considered the father of Australian art history.

Through years of interviews and exclusive access to Smith's papers and library, Palmer's biography reveals the unique character of this exceptional man.

Power Publications is delighted to celebrate the launch of *Hegel's Owl* with Smith's contemporaries, students, family and friends, who, like all of us, credit him with establishing Australia's place in global art history.

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Key dates

Thursday 16 June 2016

National Library of Australia,
Canberra book launch & public talk by
Sheridan Palmer

Wednesday 20 July 2016

Art Gallery of NSW
Sydney joint book launch with *The Legacies
of Bernard Smith* (Power Publications,
2016) & public lecture by Terry Smith,
Andrew W Mellon Professor of
Contemporary Art History and Theory,
University of Pittsburgh

Key features

424 Pages, 234 mm H x 153 mm W
60 photos, 16-pages colour inserts
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eBook: R.R.P. \$9.99

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Praise for *Hegel's Owl: The Life of Bernard Smith*

'Art teacher, artist, art historian, art critic, museum official, curator, university administrator, academician, collector, patron, and art theorist – Bernard Smith did it all, and then more: he was also a brilliant memoirist, a political polemicist, a cultural commentator, and a community activist. In this carefully researched, vividly written and thoroughly engaging biography, Sheridan Palmer provides an absorbing account of the intellectual and personal journey of Australia's preeminent historian of art and culture, a scholar with a worldwide reputation. Situating Smith within each of the fields he touched, Palmer also enriches our sense of how Australian culture was built during the twentieth century. By no means a hagiography, this is a full and frank account of a man who saw himself as, in his own words, "a bastard among them, taking notes."

Terry Smith, Andrew W Mellon Professor of Contemporary Art History and Theory, University of Pittsburgh; author of *Contemporary Art: World Currents* (Laurence King, 2011) and *What is Contemporary Art?* (University of Chicago, 2009).

'Bernard Smith was undoubtedly Australia's greatest art historian and arguably Australia's greatest humanities scholar altogether. His European Vision already contains within it all subsequent approaches to Australian art and culture: post-colonial, post-modern, post-national. Sheridan Palmer's superb biography is detailed, inclusive and at times even properly critical. It not only captures a major figure from our past but, just as importantly, points towards the possible fate of his ideas in the future.'

Rex Butler, Professor, Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture, Monash University; author of *Radical Revisionism* (IMA, 2005), *Borges' Short Stories: A Reader's Guide* (Bloomsbury, 2010) and *A Secret History of Australian Art* (Craftsman House, 2002).

'A terrific book which paints the shades of Smith's interior and exterior worlds and brings to life a brilliant and pioneering Australian intellectual.'

Jos Hackforth-Jones, Director, Sotheby's Institute, London; author of *Art and Authenticity* (Ashgate, 2012).

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