MEDIA RELEASE

Talented surgeon showcases his other side

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While Dr Sam Gue’s reputation as a dedicated and highly gifted surgeon has been well known across Adelaide for almost four decades, it may surprise some of his patients and colleagues to learn that he has developed an equally high profile in the arts community.

Dr Gue’s painting abilities will be on display when the Governor of South Australia, the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, opens his solo art exhibition which will be fittingly held at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) building located in North Adelaide.

The exhibition, which will be launched on Friday 9 March, will feature seventy of Dr Gue’s paintings most of which have been inspired by natural land and seascapes from across Australia and the world. The majority of his paintings are done in oil with brush and are layered with a palette knife to achieve a 3D effect.

He first discovered his passion for painting thirty-eight years ago in Broken Hill after operating on the renowned Australian artist, author and adventurer Jack Absalom, also known as the ‘Brushman of the Bush’.

“Jack introduced me to the basics of oil painting and we became lifelong friends. At that stage I had just migrated to Broken Hill after completing my higher surgical training in England,” Dr Gue said.

“I fell in love with the outback, the red earth and the blue bushes. Unfortunately, my career as a surgeon hasn’t allowed me to spend as much time in these beautiful natural surrounds as I would have liked, but by featuring them heavily in my art I feel as if I am still in those peaceful surrounds.”

Despite having no formal training in painting, Dr Gue’s fine motor skills that have been utilised to perform many delicate and often life-saving surgical procedures are evident in the deft touch and intricate detail demonstrated in his paintings.

“Painting for me has been a great way to relax away from the busy and challenging life of surgery, which as you can imagine can be quite stressful to say the least.”

“I feel surgery is art and so is painting. Caring and creating brings me not only joy, but fulfilment and unlimited happiness. For me this is the greatest achievement one can acquire and deliver in life.”

Additional Information: The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons building is located at 51-54 Palmer Place, North Adelaide. The venue itself is heritage listed and is an early example of Art Noveau architecture in South Australia.

The Exhibition will be opened by His Excellency the Governor, in a private ceremony on Friday 9 March, before being open to the public from 11am to 4pm daily between Saturday 10 March until Sunday 18 March. Entry is free of charge and all are welcome.

Media inquiries: Mark Morgan, Policy and Communications Officer
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Dr Gue will donate part of the proceeds from the event to the Foundation for Surgery, a branch of RACS established to assist in providing critical surgical services in disadvantaged communities in South East Asia, the Pacific, Indigenous Australia and New Zealand.

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