

ROOM 1 — PUGH ROOM

QUEEN ENSUITE

NORTHERN
ARTS HOTEL
• 359 •



SELF PORTRAIT



Some paintings by Clifton Pugh

ROOM 1 – PUGH ROOM

QUEEN ENSUITE



One of the Hotel's features is our rooms are named after Australian artists. Room 1, one of our queen ensuite rooms, is named after Clifton Pugh.

Clifton Ernest Pugh AO, (17 Dece 1924 – 14 Oct 1990) was an Australian artist and three-time winner of Australia's Archibald Prize. He is considered one of Australia's most renowned and successful post World War Two painters.

Pugh was strongly influenced by German Expressionism and was known for his landscapes and portraiture. Important early group exhibitions include *The Antipodeans*, the exhibition for which Bernard Smith drafted a manifesto in support of Australian figurative painting, an exhibition in which *Arthur Boyd, David Boyd, John Brack, Robert Dickerson, John Perceval* and *Charles Blackman* showed; a joint exhibition with *Barry Humphries*, in which the two responded to Dadaism; and *Group of Four* at the Victorian Artists Society Gallery with *Pugh, John Howley, Don Laycock* and *Lawrence Daws*.

Close observation of nature and its cyclical and savage rhythms became a constant theme in Pugh's painting. Arguably his best-known portrait is one in 1972 of Gough Whitlam.

In 1951 Pugh bought 15 acres of bushland near *Cottles Bridge*, 50 kilometres northeast of Melbourne, which he named *Dunmoochin*. Pugh at first camped on the site, then built a wattle-and-daub shack. Artists, potters and others also settled at the site. To protect and jointly control the area, they formed the *Dunmoochin Artists Co-operative*.

It is often remarked there is a strong similarity in his bush landscapes around *Dunmoochin* to the environment and bird and animal life around the Castlemaine region.

Pugh was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1985 for service to Australian Art. In 1990 he was appointed as the Australian War Memorial's official artist at the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Gallipoli landing.

Pugh died in 1990. The *Dunmoochin Foundation* now forms part of his legacy and provides residences for artists on his bush property. Pugh also donated *Dunmoochin* land to the Victorian Conservation Trust (now Trust for Nature) in 1989. Two plants of national significance have been recorded on this land. [Extract is from Wikipedia]

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