



October, 2010

Joseph Kosuth

An exhibition of works by renowned American conceptual artist Joseph Kosuth will open at ACCA in December.

Widely considered to be a pioneer of the conceptual art movement, Joseph Kosuth is known for his ground-breaking 1965 work *One and Three Chairs*, his continuing dialogue with the ideas of leading philosophers such as Wittgenstein, Nietzsche and authors Beckett, Joyce and Stein, and his richly awarded, forty year career of inquiry into the relationship between language and art.

Words, luminous in neon, screen printed, sign written and painted, have formed the basis of many of Kosuth's works. Many present tautological statements, where the works literally are what they say, while others attract the viewer to seek enlightenment.

This exhibition will present a new commission for ACCA - a room devoted to Samuel Beckett and *'Waiting for Godot'*, as well as survey key past works in three rooms that deal with the concept of 'nothingness'. Another highlight of the exhibition will be the inclusion of the artists' earliest and famous work *10 Definitions of Nothing*, which will be shown for the first time since its original 1969 exhibition.

Joseph Kosuth came to prominence in the 1960s, creating several new works that explored the nature of art itself. *One and Three Chairs*, featuring a chair, a photograph of that chair, and the text of a dictionary definition of the word 'chair', was considered a ground-breaking demonstration of art, object and idea, and the beginnings of the conceptual art movement.

Joseph Kosuth was born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1945 and lives and works in Rome and New York City. He held his first solo exhibition at Leo Castelli Gallery in New York in 1969, and in the same year became American editor of the journal *Art and Language*. In 1971-7 he studied anthropology and philosophy at the New School for Social Research in New York, which influenced the development of his art through that period.

Over the past 40 years he has exhibited throughout the world, with major projects in Venice, Barcelona, Paris, Edinburgh and New York. He has been included in Documenta V, VI, VII and IX and the Venice Biennale three times, once representing Hungary.

Kosuth has won major awards including the Brandeis Award (1990) and the Menzione d'Onore at the 1993 Venice Biennale; and the Chevalier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French government in 1993. He received the Laurea Honoris Causa, doctorate in Philosophy and Letters from the University of Bologna in 2001, and in October, 2003, the Decoration of Honor in Gold, the Austrian Republic's highest honour for accomplishments in science and culture.

Joseph Kosuth: 20th December, 2010 - 27th February, 2011
Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, 111 Sturt Street, Southbank.
Gallery hours: Tuesday-Friday 10am–5pm. Weekends 11am-6pm. Mondays by appointment. Tel: 03 9697 9999. Admission: Free. www.accaonline.org.au
ACCA is closed Christmas Day.

PLEASE NOTE: Joseph Kosuth will be in Melbourne from mid-December and available for interviews.

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