

Leta 1989 je od britanske [kraljice](#) prejel najvišje priznanje za dosežke na umetniškem področju, [Red Avstralije](#).

Stanislav Ivan Rapotec

Artist and Patriot

Gabor Gergely, GCSJ

Stanislav Rapotec is considered in Australia as one of its great painters. Many of his paintings have religious motifs rendered in a modern (post-expressionist style). Certainly, one of his most significant painting hangs in Sistine Chapel section on modern arts, on the wall directly underneath the wall of the main chapel on which Michelangelo painted The Last Judgement.

Several of Rappy's works, owned by Bojan and Vida Rbnikar burned in the 1991 Oakland Firestorm. Space below is reserved for some of his main works when pictures become available.

Stanislav Ivan Rapotec, "Rappy", was born in Trieste in 1911 when it was still part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and moved with his family in 1918 to Ljubljana, capital of Slovenia, part of the newly created Yugoslavia. After eight years of university studies and involvement in university politics and military training as a reserve officer, he began his career with the National Bank of Yugoslavia in Split where he continued to develop his skill as an artist and to explore galleries, museums and cathedrals. He was a keen student of ritual in all its forms.

In 1941 Rappy was called to serve in the army and soon, after its collapse, he was taken prisoner but immediately escaped and joined a resistance group. In June of that year he was entrusted with establishing a link between the Resistance and the Royal Yugoslav government-in-exile in Jerusalem and Cairo.

After several adventures and due to his skill at "bluffing his way out of difficulties", by travelling on the Orient Express to Istanbul even though he had no visa, he reached Jerusalem in December 1941. He returned to Yugoslavia to establish contact with trusted members of the Resistance including General Mihailovic and Archbishop Stepinac, who arranged for money to reach the Red Cross in Belgrade to help refugees.

In the summer of 1942 he again made the dangerous journey via the Orient Express without a visa and after many further adventures, reached Cairo in August with reports on the Resistance activities and bringing seven codes which allowed continued contact with the Resistance. Although called a British agent by Yugoslav historians for many Yugoslavs in exile Rappy was "the James Bond of the British S.I.S". If he had been captured he would certainly been shot as a spy.

Rappy fell in love with Sydney, Australia, after a holiday there and made it his home in 1955. With his wife Andree he continued to visit and paint in Europe. He has said *"In order to create you must have had experience. You must have quite a few dramas; you must have suffered; when you have balanced on the razor's edge between life and death, only then are you capable of true creation. To become an artist you must have a life rich in experience, a strong desire to express yourself, a will strong enough to carry out this desire and on top of all that - talent."*

After his travels Rappy always returned to his home where his friends loved to drop in, sip tea and talk, surrounded by "all that is solid and beautiful in and unadorned way."

Stan (Stanislaus) Rapotec (1913-1997)

Born of Slovenian parents in Trieste, Stanislaus Rapotec moved to Adelaide in the late 1940s. One of the leading exponents of Abstract Expressionism in Australia, the first significant recognition for his talent came with a controversial win of the Blake Prize for religious art in 1961, the first abstract painting to be the recipient of this prize. Untitled (Hephaestus) is a fine example of the spirituality that dominated Rapotec's artmaking throughout his painting career, it is religiosity that is not necessarily limited by Judeo-Christianity but also includes the myths of ancient Greece. Rich reds seemingly explode beyond the rectangular frame of the painting, an effect which is further enhanced through the use of roughly ground pigment to create texture on the board. The composition doesn't aim to represent anything material but instead aims to capture, through gesture in paint, the intangible essence of Hephaestus the mythical God of fire and metal craftsmanship, otherwise known as the celestial artist.

click here for [Stan Rapotec's biography](#)

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Stanislav Rapotec, [slovenski slikar](#) in [častnik](#), * [4. oktober 1911](#), [Trst](#), † [18. november 1997](#), [Sydney](#).

[\[uredi\]](#) Življenjepis

Stanislav Rapotec je najprej končal [trgovsko akademijo](#) v [Ljubljani](#), zatem pa se je vpisal na [Ekonomsko fakulteto v Zagrebu](#), kjer je [diplomiral](#) leta 1938. Leta 1940 se je zaposlil v [Splitu](#), kjer so ga kmalu [rekrutirali](#). V [aprilski vojni](#) je bil zajet, a je iz ujetništva pobegnil in se priključil odporniški skupini. Kasneje je odšel v [Veliko Britanijo](#), kjer je postal [častnik](#) in je bil kasneje poslan na [Bližnji vzhod](#). Po [vojni](#) je odšel v [Avstralijo](#), kjer je ostal do smrti.

V [Adelaidu](#) je leta 1952 ponovno diplomiral iz [ekonomije](#) in začel tudi [slikati](#). Kasneje se je slikarstvu povsem posvetil in je postal eden vidnejših [slikarjev](#) v Avstraliji. V začetku je bil [realist](#), ki je upodabljal avstralsko pokrajino, kasneje pa se je bolj posvetil abstraktnemu [ekspresionizmu](#). Leta 1976 si je [atelje](#) postavil tudi na [Koroškem](#), v kraju [Sveče](#) in ustvarjal tudi tam. Leta 1989 je od britanske [kraljice](#) prejel najvišje priznanje za dosežke na umetniškem področju, [Red Avstraliije](#).

Stanislav Rapotec, a barbarogenius in Australian art



83 Moncur Street Woollahra NSW 2025 Australia
t: (61 2) 9362 0297 f: (61 2) 9362 0318 e: art@evabreuerartdealer.com.au

stanislaus rapotec

Stan (Stanislaus) Rapotec (1911-1997)

Biography

1911 Born in Trieste, Italy

1997 Died in Sydney, Australia, aged 83

Solo Exhibitions

- 1952 John Martin gallery, Adelaide
- 1953 Royal Society of Art Gallery, Adelaide
- 1959 Clune Gallery, Sydney
- 1960 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1962 South Yarra Gallery, Melbourne
- 1962 Clune Gallery, Sydney
- 1964 Hungry Horse Gallery, Sydney
- 1965 Qantas Gallery, London
- 1966 Gallery A, Sydney
- 1966 South Yarra Gallery, Melbourne
- 1967 Bonython Gallery, Sydney
- 1967 David Jones Gallery, Sydney
- 1968 Macquarie Gallery, Sydney
- 1968 Gallery A, Melbourne
- 1969 Bonython Gallery, Sydney
- 1969 White Studio, Adelaide
- 1971 Bonython Gallery, Sydney

1972 Realities Gallery, Melbourne
1975 Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris
1978 Katoliški prosvetni dom, Tainach, Austria
1980 Holdsworth Gallery, Sydney
1982 Australian Embassy, Paris
1983 Holdsworth Gallery, Sydney
1984 Nippon Club Gallery, New York

Selected Group Exhibitions

1950-60 Annual Contemporary Art Society Shows, Adelaide & Sydney
1954-63 Blake Prize Exhibition, Sydney
1954 Peter Bray Gallery, Melbourne
1959 Australian Paintings, San Francisco
1960 New Vision Gallery, London
1961 Bienale de Sao Paolo, Brasil
1961 Sydney Nine Group, Sydney & Melbourne
1961 Pacific Art Exhibition, New Zealand
1961 Rubenstein Entrant, Sydney
1962 Rubenstein Entrant, Sydney
1963 Australian Painting - Colonial, Impressionist, Contemporary,
travelling to State Galleries and Tate Gallery, London
1964 Australian Painting Today, Galeriee Creuge, Paris
1964 George's Prize Exhibition, Melbourne
1965 Wardle Prize, Perth
1966 Wardle Prize, Perth
1966 Harold Mertz Collection, Adelaide Festival, Adelaide
1966 Festival of Perth, WA
1966-68 George's Prize Exhibition, Melbourne
1968 Transfield Prize, Sydney
1971 Travelodge Paintings, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
1972 Australian Paintings of the Past 20 Years, London
1977 The Heroic Years of Australian Paintings 1940-65, Melbourne
1978 Australian Drawings, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
1982 Paintings Selected by Patrick White, Art Gallery of New South
Wales
1988 Images of Religion in Australian Art , National Gallery of Victoria
1990 Slovenski likovni ustvarjalci po svetu. Starejša generacija iz obeh
1990 Amerik in Avstralije , Galerija Dolenjskega muzeja, Novo Mesto
1991 Slovene Artistic Creativity Abroad , Galerija Dolenjskega Muzeja
1990-91 Novo Mesto & Mestna Galerija, Ljubljana, Yugoslavia,
1997 The Europeans: Emigre Artists in Australia, 1930-1960 , NGA,
1997.
2001 Federation: Australian Art & Society 1901-2001, National Gallery
of Australia & touring Australia 2001-02
2001 A Century of Collecting: 1901-2001, Ivan Dogherty Gallery,

UNSW

2001 50 Years of the Blake Prize for Religious Art, QUT & travelling

Selected Collections

Australian Embassy, Paris

Vatican Gallery of Modern Religious Art

Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris

Blake Dawson Waldron

National Gallery of Australia

Art Gallery of New South Wales

Art Gallery of South Australia

Art Gallery of Western Australia

Queensland Art Gallery

Numerous Regional Galleries & Tertiary Collections

Corporate & Private Collections in Australia & Overseas

Selected Bibliography

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Miran Ogrin, Stanislav Rapotec – naš umetnik v Avstraliji, 1969

Gary Catalano, The Years of Hope, 1981

Anne Fairbairn, 'Rapotec at Seventy', Quadrant, November 1983

R. Crumlin, Images of Religion in Australian Art, National Gallery of Victoria, 1988

M. Tršar, Slovene Artistic Creativity Abroad, Ljubljana, 1990-91

Smith, B & T., Australian Painting, 1991 edition

Dr Irene Mislej, Stanislav Rapotec: Creator of New Mental Images, Slovenija, 1996

Lou Klepac, 'Artist with a Vast Impact', The Australian, 21 Nov 1997, p.16

Joanna Mendelssohn, 'Immigrant Thrived in 50s Sydney', 21 Nov 1997, p.16

C. Heathcote, 'Days of Hope', Art Monthly # 99, May 1997

J. McDonald, Federation: Australian Art & Society 1901-2001, NGA, 2000-01

Selected Reviews:

'An Enthusiastic Artist', Adelaide News, 1953

James Gleeson, The Sun, 14 Sept 1960

B. Hannan, The Bulletin, 26 May 1962

'Australian Art in Three Phases', The Times London, 24 Jan 1963

Helen Lambert, New York Herald, 30 Jan 1963

'Rapotec at Hungry Horse Gallery', The Sydney Morning Herald, 26 Mar 1964

D. Thomas, Sunday Telegraph, 29 Mar 1964
M.T.M***, Lettres Françaises, 26 Nov 1964
Peter Grose, Sunday Mirror, 29 Mar 1966
Gavin Souter, The Sydney Morning Herald, 31 Mar 1966
Elwyn Lynn, The Australian, 2 April 1966
J. Gleeson, The Sun, 7 April 1966
Wallace Thornton, The Sydney Morning Herald, 7 April 1966
J. Gleeson, The Sun, 8 June 1966
"Mellowing of a wild expressionist", The Age, 14 Sept 1966
Alan Warren, The Australian, 17 Sept 1966
Charles Bush, The Australian, 17 Sept 1966
Dr George Berger, The Sydney Jewish News, 23 Dec 1966
Laurie Thomas, The Australian, 13 May 1967
Ronald Millar, The Australian, 13 May 1967
Wallace Thornton, The Sydney Morning Herald, 31 May 1967
James Gleeson, The Sun, 31 May 1967
John Henshaw, The Australian, 3 June 1967
Helen Sweeney, The Sunday Telegraph, 4 June 1967
'Rapotec: A Clap of Thunder', The Sun-Herald, 4 June 1967
'Exhibition by Rapotec', The Canberra Times, 25 April 1968
Robin Waalce-Crabbe, The Canberra Times, 27 April 1968
Lou Klepac, London Evening News, 16 Feb 1969
Donald Brook, The Sydney Morning Herald, 20 Mar 1969
John Henshaw, The Australian, 5 April 1969
Ivor Francis, Sunday Mail, 19 July 1969
James Gleeson, The Sun, 31 Mar 1971
J. Henshaw, The Australian, 3 April 1971
Margaret Jones, The Sydney Morning Herald, 03 April 1971
Miša Lajovic, 'Podoba umetnika', Društvene Novice, Dec 1971
David Rankin, The National Times, 12-17 April 1971