



LARGER THAN LIFE

PORTRAIT ARTIST STEPHEN JAMES

The imposing portraits of Paul Dyer, artistic director of The Brandenburg Orchestra, and acclaimed author Amanda Lohrey feature on the walls of The Hughenden staircase, illuminated by a crystal chandelier and 1920s lead glass lightwell. Painted by artist Stephen James, these striking artworks are part of the arts and literature heritage of The Hughenden.

Stephen James has had a long history with The Hughenden, holding successful exhibitions at the hotel, being artist-in-residence and providing artwork on loan for exhibit. Drawing from the Expressionist and Surrealist traditions, the portraits of Paul Dyer and Amanda Lohrey are rich in colour and depth as they explore figuration and ideas.

Paul Dyer AO is co-founder and artistic director of the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and Brandenburg Choir and awarded the Officer of the Order of Australia for his "distinguished service to the performing arts, particularly orchestral music as a director, conductor and musician, through the promotion of educational programs and support for emerging artists".

The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra celebrates the music of the 16th and 17th centuries and pays tribute to Bach and the Baroque era. Paul Dyer created the orchestra "so people would feel joy, regardless of their background. So many people have never heard classical music before; they've never touched a violin, let alone a baroque harp or harpsichord. Our vision is to create a new audience, to show them that baroque music is very effervescent and light and the pieces don't go on too long."

Amanda Lohrey is one of Australia's leading fiction writers. Her books include *The Morality of Gentlemen*, *The Reading Group*, *Camille's Bread* which won the Australian Literature Society's Gold Medal, *The Philosopher's Doll* and *Vertigo*. She won the Patrick White Literary Award in 2012.

Stephen James, a Master of Art graduate of the College of Fine Arts (NSW), had his first solo exhibition in 1995 at Crawford Gallery, East Sydney. In addition to major commissions, he exhibits in galleries in Sydney, Newcastle and Canberra, including the prestigious Chapman Gallery. His work was selected for the Salon des Refusés at the H.R. Ervin Gallery and The Alice Prize. In 2012, he exhibited a major solo show at Cessnock Regional Art Gallery.

www.stephenjames.com.au

