

GALLERY OPENING AT GEELONG EPWORTH

In July 2016 we celebrate the opening of the new Art Gallery at Geelong Epworth with an exhibition of works, drawn from the Epworth Art Collection, titled *The Victorian Scene* by artist Geoff Newton. With this, the first of 4 three monthly rotating exhibitions, the Epworth Art Collection and Gallery aims to exemplify the core values of Epworth Healthcare - respect, excellence, community, compassion and integrity - and to enrich, inspire and enliven our patients, visitors, employees and the broader community.

Geoff Newton's *The Victorian Scene*, acquired for the Epworth Collection in January 2016, comprises a series of 16 works with each painting representing the landscape or streetscape immediately visible from the entrance of the each of the regional galleries from where the images were sourced. As Newton describes it, "Generally overlooked, this vista also represents the world that inspires both the galleries collection and staff". But *The Victorian Scene* also borrows ideas from 'History Painting' – a genre in which painting is defined by its subject matter rather than artistic style. In this case, the subject matter is the museum or gallery and, with the buildings themselves absent from the works, Newton integrates the design of the façade of each public building with a number of similarities that can be seen in each work – we see street furniture, handrails, benches, car parks and, as with Newton's **55 Little Malop St, Geelong, September 24** (2015), even the bright red plastic barricades that interrupt the street scene to signify the presence of roadworks – a moment in history presented as a narrative.

There is an irony to this exhibition - art resides within the buildings that we do not enter or see – but it is also reminds of the importance of the gallery as a focal point from which to navigate and draw attention to public space. Thus, it seems fitting that Geoff Newton's *The Victoria Scene* should launch the opening of our new Epworth Geelong Gallery to which we would like to extend our warmest welcome to all. Our gallery will be open daily from 8.30 – 5.00 daily. For further information or enquiries please contact Tracy Spinks, Art Collection Manager at tracy.spinks@epworth.org.au



Geoff Newton

26 Liebig St, Warrnambool, January 9 2015
Oil on linen 64 x 94 cm

Geoff Newton

55 Little Malop St, Geelong, September 24, 2015
Oil on linen 64 x 94cm