

Panorama "Guth"

PANORAMA "GUTH"
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Mother's Shoes
by Henk Guth



Detail of Panorama
by Henk Guth

INTRODUCTION TO "PANORAMA GUTH"

Artist Henk Guth was born in Arnhem, Holland, in 1921. After graduation from the Academy of Art in Arnhem in 1942 he moved to Amsterdam where he lived for the next 12 years. During this time he held many exhibitions throughout Europe, the U.K. and U.S.A.

He emigrated to Australia in 1960 and settled in Melbourne where an Art Studio was established. Many exhibitions were held in Victoria during this time. He also started manufacturing his own oil paints from an old Dutch formula and to this day still manufactures paint for his own use.

In 1966 he moved to Alice Springs and an Art Gallery was opened under the name of Art Studio Guth.

Gradually a museum of Aboriginal culture was built up, the artist having made many friends among the Aboriginal people.

After many years of thought and contemplation the seed was sown for a Panorama – having been greatly inspired by the immense beauty of the Central Australian landscape. The idea of a Panorama came originally from a similar project in The Hague, Holland – Panorama Mesdag, a seascape painted in 1880.

Plans were drawn up in 1971 for a Panorama Guth. This was to be a circular painting on canvas to be viewed from a central platform reached by a spiral staircase and thus giving the impression of a lookout.

The foundations were laid in 1973 and the building progressed until such time as the canvas could be hung in January 1975. The canvas consists of 33 pieces of Irish linen joined together by aluminium strips. It measures 20 feet (6 metres) high and 200 feet (60 metres) around – the diameter is 60 feet (18 metres). The canvas hangs from a circular rail at the top and is attached by hooks at the lower end.

In February 1975 a colleague from Holland, artist Frits Pieters was recruited to assist Henk Guth with the enormous task of planning it, setting out the sketch and then to paint the Panorama.

It was painted on location, as it now stands and so special scaffolding was constructed to enable the artists to reach the whole of the canvas. The scaffolding was erected on wheels so that it could be moved around the base of the canvas.

Frits Pieters remained in Alice Springs for three months and after his departure Henk Guth spent another three months completing and perfecting the canvas. It is estimated that 1500 lbs (680 kgs) of paint was used for the project.

The foreground which blends into the painting is 20 feet (6 metres) from the platform to the canvas and is natural sand and flora.

The painting which depicts the many scenic attractions around Central Australia was finally completed in August after six months of intensive work and was opened to the public on the 23rd August.

The gallery under the Panorama houses a permanent collection of Henk Guth's paintings.



Portrait of The Artist by Henk Guth

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