ROBIN BOYD: DESIGN LEGEND

Heide Museum of Modern Art presents landmark exhibition exploring iconic designs by one of Australia’s most celebrated architects on the centenary of his birth

Melbourne, Australia: As part of the Robin Boyd centenary celebrations, Heide Museum of Modern Art will present Robin Boyd: Design Legend, a new exhibition celebrating the work of one of Australia’s most respected and well-known architects, and one of the nation’s first public intellectuals and media celebrities. Presented in the iconic modernist building Heide II from 3 August to 27 October 2019, the exhibition is a major event in the centenary celebrations of Boyd’s birth and explores some of his key design themes and principles through ten of his distinctive houses.

Heide Museum of Modern Art Artistic Director Lesley Harding says, “Heide’s rich history in design and architecture makes it the perfect place to reflect on Robin Boyd’s remarkable career and enduring legacy. We are delighted to offer unparalleled access to some of his iconic residential designs through our open house program and look forward to celebrating the centenary of this acclaimed architect.”

During his career Boyd designed more than 300 projects, from residences to civic buildings, and was driven to prompt, inspire and provoke an awareness of good design among the widest possible audience. Robin Boyd: Design Legend
MEDIA RELEASE

HEIDE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
July 2019

offers audiences unparalleled insight into some of Boyd’s key design themes as expressed in ten houses including the influential House of Tomorrow (1949), Boyd’s own house in Walsh Street, South Yarra (1958), the renowned Featherston house, Ivanhoe (1967–9) and several houses local to Heide.

As well as photographs and drawings of each of the ten houses, the exhibition will include architectural models created by RMIT Master of Architecture students supervised by architect Christopher Hewson, a dynamic new filmic narrative on Boyd’s life and work, and original archival material. Many of the photographs in the exhibition are by acclaimed architectural photographers such as Mark Strizic, Wolfgang Sievers and John Gollings.

Robin Boyd: Design Legend is intended to introduce new audiences to Boyd, re-connect existing audiences with his work and influence, and communicate Boyd’s humanist belief that good design can improve people’s lives and the world we live in. The exhibition also offers insight into his work in other disciplines, from publishing to furniture and exhibition design.

Beyond the buildings themselves, Boyd was an academic, author and public lecturer, known by many for his Boyer Lectures broadcast by the ABC and his highly influential best-seller The Australian Ugliness, which opened up debate in Australia about design, architecture and urban planning.

‘Everyone who creates a bad building is, in some sort of a way, committing a crime against society.’

– Robin Boyd c.1968

For Boyd, good design was not the preserve of the elite or the architectural fraternity, but something that should be available to the broader community. From 1947 to 1953, he was the inaugural director of the Small Homes Service, run by the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects in conjunction with The Age. The highly successful service developed, and made available for £5, plans for 40 different architect-designed homes published in The Age.

The exhibition spaces will suggest an architectural studio, with photographs, plans and sections of the ten Boyd houses pinned to the walls and the models displayed alongside them. Within the exhibition will be a range of Boyd’s furniture made under license by K5+Kinnarps in collaboration with designer Garry Emery. The pieces will be auctioned at the end of the exhibition period, with the funds raised supporting both Heide and the Boyd Foundation.

Robin Boyd: Design Legend will be accompanied by a tailored public program, a highlight of which will be open home tours at a number of the houses featured in the exhibition during September and October.

PUBLIC PROGRAM:

ART TALK

BOYD EXPERT TONY LEE AND SENIOR CURATOR KENDRAH MORGAN
Sunday 4 August, 3pm
As part of the centenary celebrations for Robin Boyd (1919-1971), one of Australia’s most respected and well-known architects, join Boyd expert Tony Lee and Senior Curator Kendrah Morgan as they give insight into Boyd’s residential projects and design themes.

MORNING TEA ROBIN BOYD: DESIGN LEGEND

SENIOR CURATOR KENDRAH MORGAN
Saturday 10 August, 11am
In partnership with the Boyd Foundation join Senior Curator Kendrah Morgan for a curator-led tour of Robin Boyd: Design Legend followed by a light morning tea on the terrace of Heide II.
OPEN HOME TOURS
FIVE LOCAL ROBIN BOYD HOMES
As part of the public program series for Robin Boyd: Design Legend five homes designed by Boyd will be made open to the public. Each home will be open from 12 to 4pm in 30-minute sessions (8 sessions available).

Baker and Dower Houses, Bacchus Marsh
Sunday 8 September, 12–4pm

Gillison House, Balwyn
Sunday 15 September, 12–4pm

Hegarty House, East Ringwood
Sunday 29 September, 12–4pm

King House, Warrandyte
Sunday 13 October, 12–4pm

Richard Haughton James House, Kew
Sunday 27 October, 12–4pm

COST Adult $25/Concession/Senior /Heide Member $20
Bookings will be available via the Heide website and the addresses will be forwarded to booked participants closer to the relevant open day date.

-ENDS-

Exhibition Details:
Robin Boyd: Design Legend
3 August – 27 October 2019
Heide Museum of Modern Art
7 Templestowe Road, Bulleen, VIC 3105

Museum opening hours
Tuesday–Sunday, 10am–5pm. Closed Mondays
Admission fees apply: Members free |Adult $20 |Concession $15 |Children (16 and under) free
heide.com.au

MEDIA CONTACT: For further information or interview requests please contact Claire Martin, claire@articulatepr.com.au, 0414 437 588 or Megan Bentley, megan@articulatepr.com.au, 0452 214 611

IMAGES: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kqgkxhr2krcf6uc/AABerpFZ3dcP6PnLf4OPWCXMa?dl=0

Image caption:

ABOUT ROBIN BOYD CBE (1919-1971) – taken from Boyd Foundation website
Boyd is arguably the most influential architect there has been in Australia. Through his writings Boyd inspired the general community and through his architecture he has become an acknowledged leader in the design and architectural professions. He was a renowned Victorian architect, author, critic, and public educator in the 50s and 60s, a leader in Melbourne’s Modern Architecture movement, a visionary in urban design, and outspoken on the ‘Australian Identity’.

Robin Boyd was a public educator. He was passionate about good design and devoted his life to creating a wider public understanding of its benefits. Acting as the cultural conscience of the nation, Boyd encouraged people to extend their
MEDIA RELEASE

HEIDE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
July 2019

thinking and expectations beyond ‘the known’ and ‘the given’. He urged people to reassess and innovate and, most importantly, he led by example.

‘Walsh Street’, the house Boyd designed for his own family in 1957, is his most well-known work. It has been extensively published both nationally and internationally as an exemplar of modernist Australian architecture and a house that continues to influence architectural thinking. It is now the home of the Robin Boyd Foundation.

ABOUT HEIDE
Heide Museum of Modern Art is one of Australia’s most important cultural institutions. Once a significant Wurundjeri gathering place and later a dairy farm, the six hectare property was purchased by art patrons John and Sunday Reed in 1934, after which it became a hub for Australian modern art and writing. The Reeds fostered the talents of the most progressive artists of their era, including Sidney Nolan, Albert Tucker, Arthur Boyd, Joy Hester, John Perceval and Charles Blackman and shaped a new and progressive cultural landscape.

Today Heide holds an important collection of over 3,500 artworks. The site comprises a series of spaces, including Heide I (the original weatherboard farmhouse), Heide II (the modernist ‘gallery to be lived in’ designed in the 1960s), and the purpose-built galleries – Heide III and IV. In addition, the property encompasses a sculpture park and plaza, two working kitchen gardens which supply Café Heide, the ‘Heart Garden’ (planted by Sunday Reed as a symbol of her love for artist Sidney Nolan), an indigenous remnant garden at the edge of the Yarra River, and various garden installations.

In response to John and Sunday Reed’s legacy, Heide works to inspire creative talent, collaborating with emerging and mid-career artists as well as celebrating those who have made major contributions as contemporary artists.

heide.com.au