

MEDIA RELEASE

7 November 2016

2017 Autumn/Winter exhibitions at Heide

The first exhibition to survey Constructivism and Australian Art, and a reunion of Charles Blackman's Schoolgirls highlight Heide's Autumn/Winter 2017 Season.



CHARLES BLACKMAN: SCHOOLGIRLS

4 March – 18 June 2017

Central galleries

This landmark exhibition reunites more than forty major paintings in Charles Blackman's compelling Schoolgirls series, the first public showing since their production in the early 1950s. The Schoolgirls series marked a turning point in the artist's career, revealing him as a significant painter of modern life in the post-war era. Through his evocative depictions of uniformed schoolgirls in isolated urban settings, Blackman explored the themes of vulnerability, alienation, and innocence under threat. He drew inspiration from a range of sources, from an unsolved murder to the lyrical poetry of John Shaw Nielson, surrealist illustrations by Odilon Redon, and direct observations of schoolchildren interacting.

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CONSTRUCTIVISM AND AUSTRALIAN ART

5 July – 15 October 2017

Central galleries, Heide II and the Kerry Gardner & Andrew Myer Project Gallery

This exhibition is the first to examine the influence of the early modernist art movement Constructivism on Australian art. Characterised by utopian ideas and a geometric abstract style, Constructivism first emerged in Russia in 1915, just prior to the Russian Revolution, through the works of Vladimir Tatlin, Aleksander Rodchenko and Varvara Stepanova, among others. Championing ‘a new art for a new world’, the movement spread to Europe, Britain and Australia in the early 1930s, and the exhibition presents its continuing impact through a selection of works in a wide range of media by around sixty artists, including Frank and Margel Hinder, Ralph Balson, George Johnson, Gunter Christmann, Rose Nolan, Sally Smart and Zoe Croggon.

It represents the third exhibition in a series that surveys Australia's contribution to key modernist art movements with previous exhibitions *Cubism and Australian Art (2009–10)* and *Less is More: Minimal and Post Minimal Art in Australia (2012)*.

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	<p>Rebecca Mayo: Habitus 4 March – 18 June 2017</p> <p>In this installation for ART+CLIMATE=CHANGE 2017, Rebecca Mayo reflects on the long history of devastating floods at Heide. A series of cloth sandbags printed with dyes made from indigenous and introduced plants gathered locally are stacked to form a wall, speaking to the crisis point of climate change and highlighting the impact of everyday and habitual activities.</p> <p>Kerry Gardner & Andrew Myer Project Gallery</p>
	<p>Albert Tucker and Fred Williams: The Springbrook Landscapes 25 March – 27 August 2017</p> <p>A rare opportunity to view the response of two highly acclaimed Australian painters to a particular region of Australia—the Springbrook Rainforest in the Gold Coast Hinterland—where the artists spent time together in 1971, after Tucker purchased a tract of land to protect the area from mining.</p> <p>Albert & Barbara Tucker Gallery</p>
	<p>Making History: The Boyd Family 27 May - 12 November</p> <p>This display highlights the museum’s rich collection of paintings, works on paper and ceramic objects by various members of the acclaimed Boyd dynasty and their close collaborators. With a focus on the achievements of the 1940s and 50s, highlights include elegant art nouveau-style pots by family patriarch Merric Boyd and Arthur Boyd’s masterful group portrait painted in 1946.</p> <p>Heide I</p>

Images:

1. Charles Blackman, *The Shadow* 1953, tempera on cardboard, 59 x 75 cm, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, Purchased from John and Sunday Reed 1980, © Charles Blackman
2. George Johnson, *Construction With Brown Triangle* 1986, acrylic on canvas, 186 x 140 cm, Courtesy of the artist and Charles Nodrum Gallery
3. Rebecca Mayo, *Sandbag* 2016 (detail), photograph: Matthew Stanton, © the artist
4. Albert Tucker, *Springbrook Landscape* 1974, synthetic polymer paint, watercolour, ink and chalk on paper, 51 x 66.5 cm, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008, © The Estate of Barbara Tucker, courtesy of Sotheby’s Australia

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5. Arthur Boyd, *Europa and the Bull* 1952–53, painted and glazed earthenware, 31.6 x 41.4 cm, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, Purchased from John and Sunday Reed 1980, © Courtesy Bundanon Trust

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Museum Opening Hours
Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5pm. Closed Mondays.