

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 2007

**DEMETER'S GARDEN
LAUREN BERKOWITZ**

Demeter's garden (3 March – 24 June 2007) is a new installation at Heide Museum of Modern Art, by Melbourne artist Lauren Berkowitz.

Demeter's garden is the stunning culmination of Lauren Berkowitz's accumulation of plant materials from Heide's grounds, transformed into an evocative sculptural work which pays homage to the symbolic and art-historical legacy of flora.

Inspired by the unique landscape of Heide, Berkowitz harvested materials during 2005 and 2006. During regular visits to Heide she located and gathered materials with minimal intrusion on the natural surrounds.

The result is *Demeter's garden*, a site-specific floor work that is composed of dried flowers, seedpods and leaves, designed to contrast in colour and texture. The plants include both indigenous (pre-colonial) and exotics introduced by settlers, and measures 430.0 x 170.0 cm. The title of the work references the mythological earth goddess Demeter, and her associations with the seasons, fertility, growth and decay.

Located in the 1960s modernist building, Heide II, *Demeter's garden* is a temporary installation presented in association with Berkowitz's permanent outdoor sculpture, *Karakarook's garden* (2005-06), located near Heide I, the heritage-listed Victorian farmhouse. *Karakarook's garden* acknowledges the Wurrundjeri clan of the Woiwurrung language group and contains many rare indigenous plants including orchids, lilies and grasses that were harvested as important food, medicinal and material resources by the local Aboriginal women before European settlement. *Karakarook's garden* is a site of healing and regeneration of the past and present.

Lauren Berkowitz is an installation artist, working mostly on ephemeral and site-specific works that evoke the passage of time and our place within it. Inspired by the landscape and concerned for the future of the natural environment, her works often reference histories relevant to their locations, including Australian and international art of the recent past.

Lauren Berkowitz's work is held in the collections of a range of institutions in Australia and the United States, including the Museum of Modern Art Library, New York.

Lauren Berkowitz is available for interview.

***Demeter's garden*, Lauren Berkowitz**

3 March – 24 June 2007

Heide II

Curators: Zara Stanhope, Project Curator and Linda Short, Assistant Curator

ASSOCIATED HEIDE PUBLIC PROGRAMS & EVENTS:

Sunday 15 April 2007, 2.00pm

Artists in conversation

Artist Lauren Berkowitz discusses *Demeter's garden* with art historian, Dr Janine Burke, and writer and Director, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Naomi Cass

Tickets: FREE with admission

Tuesday 8 May 2007, 2.00pm

Exhibition tour

Demeter's garden and Blue Jay Way

A Volunteer Guide discusses Lauren Berkowitz's and Sue Pedley's exhibitions and their works in the surrounding gardens

Tickets: FREE with admission

Heide Museum of Modern Art

7 Templestowe Road

Bulleen Victoria 3105 Australia

T 03 9850 1500

www.heide.com.au

Tue-Fri 10.00am – 5.00pm; Sat/Sun/Public Holidays 12.00noon – 5.00pm

Admission: Adult \$12, Seniors \$10, Concession \$8; Gardens: free

For further media information:

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