

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 2007

**THE GODDESS GRINS
ALBERT TUCKER AND THE FEMALE IMAGE**

The Goddess grins. Albert Tucker and the female image at Heide Museum of Modern Art, 26 May – 28 October 2007, presents a selection of Tucker's most expressive and intimate paintings of the female form.

Albert Tucker's investigation of women in his art has resulted in some of the most poignant and radical iconographical images in Australian modernism. His portrayals of women are complex, referencing the maiden, matriarch, prostitute and goddess. Tucker expounds women as valued and dynamic individuals in his portraits and photographs, demonstrating their role as a social force within a city.

However his images of women are often grotesque and have been widely interpreted as misogynistic. Guest curator, Dr Sheridan Palmer, looks at the Tucker females from another perspective. She dispels this perception of Tucker as misogynist and instead posits the female image in his art as a penetrating vehicle of social and sexual commentary not seen before in Australia.

'As one of the most autonomous artists of his generation', says Palmer, Tucker was responsive to the climate of fear and scrutiny during World War II and attempted to translate this by using extraordinary images of the female in his art, images that were drawn from the local in response to the universal nature of sexuality, chaos and myth'.

The Goddess grins charts Tucker's progress as a self-taught, highly skilled and orthodox young artist through to his major investigations into moral values, and considers his career-long interest in the female image.

The exhibition brings together over 50 paintings, drawings, photographs and sculptures from the 1930s to his later works in the 1990s, some of which have not been shown publicly before.

This exhibition is the third in an ongoing series of exhibitions based on the Tucker Gift to Heide. The Albert & Barbara Tucker Gallery presents newly researched perspectives and contextual interpretations of the work and life of Albert Tucker, through changing exhibitions that look both in-depth at the artist himself, as well as the artist within broader contexts.

Dr Sheridan Palmer is available for interview.

The Goddess grins. Albert Tucker and the female image
26 May – 28 October 2007
Heide III: Albert & Barbara Tucker Gallery
Guest Curator: Dr Sheridan Palmer

ASSOCIATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

Sunday 27 May 2007, 2.00pm
Curator's floor talk
The Goddess grins. Albert Tucker and the female image
Dr Sheridan Palmer, Guest Curator and Art Historian
Tickets: FREE with admission

Tuesday 29 May 2007, 2.00pm

Exhibition tour

The Goddess grins. Albert Tucker and the female image

Tickets: FREE with admission

Tuesday 12 June 2007, 2.00pm

Exhibition tour

The Goddess grins. Albert Tucker and the female image

Tickets: FREE with admission

FEATURE EVENT

Saturday 23 June 2007, 3.00pm – 5.00pm

The Goddess grins. Women in Melbourne 1930s – 1950s: issues of work, play and sexuality

A panel, lead by Dr Sheridan Palmer, Guest Curator and Art Historian, considers the female image in Albert Tucker's paintings within its wider social context

Tickets: Adult \$25, Heide Member/Concession \$20, includes Domaine Chandon refreshments & exhibition entry

Tuesday 26 June 2007, 2.00pm

Exhibition tour

The Goddess grins. Albert Tucker and the female image

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, Senior \$10, Concession \$8; Gardens: free

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