

HEIDE I – WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

John and Sunday Reed purchased the property now known as **Heide** in 1934, transforming the original Victorian farmhouse into the French provincial-style cottage we see today. The house and property were named Heide, in an affectionate reference to the nearby town of Heidelberg.

John Reed, a solicitor, and Sunday Quinn (née Baillieu) met in 1930 and married in 1932. The Reeds had broad intellectual interests in art, politics, literature, poetry and a great passion for gardening. They were also champions of modernist art that was emerging in Melbourne at that time.

From the 1930s onwards, the Reeds welcomed into their home an ever-widening circle of artists, writers, musicians, poets and garden enthusiasts. Some of Australia's most acclaimed artists visited Heide and were supported by the Reeds, including: **Sam Atyeo, Albert Tucker, Joy Hester, Michael Keon, Sidney Nolan, Danila Vassilieff, Mirka Mora, Charles Blackman, Arthur Boyd, John Perceval, Mike Brown** and many others.

In the 1960s the Reeds built a new home, designed by McGlashan and Everist as a '*gallery to be lived in*'. The Reeds moved into this house, which became known as Heide II, in the summer of 1967-8.

The Reeds' adopted son, Sweeney and his wife, Pamela, lived in Heide I from 1969 and their two children were born there. Sweeney stayed at Heide after separating from Pamela and lived there until his death in 1979.

In 1980 John and Sunday Reed sold Heide II to the Victorian Government, fulfilling their dream of creating a museum of modern and contemporary art in Melbourne. In that same year they returned to Heide I, where they lived until their deaths in December 1981. The Reeds left a considerable portion of their art collection to the Museum. Their lifelong friend, Barrett Reid, a literary editor and writer, lived in Heide I until his death in 1995. His art collection now also forms part of the Museum's collection.

Heide's Master Plan Competition opened for submission in 1998 and O'Connor + Houle Architecture was announced the winner in 1999.

Phase 1 of Heide's Redevelopment Program was the restoration of Heide I and its grounds, supported by the Australian Government through the Centenary of Federation Cultural and Heritage Fund. Following 12 months of detailed restoration, Heide I and its gardens opened to the public on 10 December 2001. In 2003, the Heide I restoration project was recognised with the John George Knight Heritage Award by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (Victoria), among others.

History permeates every corner of the heritage house. The library, painted in deep red ochre by Sunday Reed and Sidney Nolan, was the centre of social life at Heide. It was here that the Reeds spent evenings writing, entertaining friends and house guests, and reading from the extensive collection of books and journals they assembled from Europe and the United States.

As well as being advocates of contemporary art John and Sunday Reed were also great appreciators of the 19th century Heidelberg School painters. Sunday Reed owned and hung at Heide several works by family friend and renowned artist, Arthur Streeton. Streeton had painted Sunday as a young girl.

Heide I's dining room has a fascinating history. It was here that Sidney Nolan painted 26 of his original 27 Ned Kelly paintings. This artistic heritage continued in 1969-1970, when Mike Brown, an artist and friend of Sweeney and Pamela Reed, painted his mural *It ain't necessarily so...* on the dining room walls, windows, doors and floor.

Surrounding Heide I are extensive gardens originally established by John and Sunday Reed and their friends. They include the Heart Garden, the Vegetable Garden, the Wild Garden and two of Heide's heritage-

listed Osage orange groves. In late 2005, Melbourne sculptor Lauren Berkowitz and Heide gardeners installed a plant-based sculpture in the grounds of Heide I. This work will be unveiled as part of Heide's 25th Anniversary celebrations in November 2006.

It ain't necessarily so... Mike Brown and the Imitation Realists, 18 July – 1 October 2006, will be the first exhibition in Heide I when the Museum reopens in July 2006. The exhibition celebrates the early work of artist Mike Brown and the Imitation Realists and will include a reinterpretation of Brown's 1969-70 Heide I dining room mural.

Heide Museum of Modern Art is currently closed and will reopen Tuesday 18 July 2006 for the unveiling of the completed Redevelopment Program.

Heide Museum of Modern Art

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

Admission: All Areas - Adult \$12, Seniors \$10, Concession \$8.

Single Area (Heide I only) - Adult \$8, Seniors \$7, Concession \$5.

Gardens – Free

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Heide 1 Restoration Partners



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Indemnification for this exhibition
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