

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 2007

## **THOSE WHO MADE AND THOSE WHO SAW PORTRAITS OF THE HEIDE CIRCLE**

*Those who made and those who saw. Portraits of the Heide circle* is an exhibition that presents portraits of and by the artists and friends associated with Heide during the turbulent but formative 1940s period in Melbourne. This exhibition – at Heide Museum of Modern Art from 3 November 2007 until 15 June 2008 – is a revealing insight into the relationships and artistic allegiances formed between these modernist thinkers.

The exhibition brings together over fifty portraits and self-portraits. Artists, many of whom also appear as subjects, include: Albert Tucker, Sidney Nolan, Joy Hester, Arthur Boyd, John Perceval and Danila Vassilieff. Other protagonists that feature are John and Sunday Reed, Sweeney Reed, Mary Boyd, Yvonne Boyd, Pauline and Jack McCarthy and literary figures Barrett Reid, Michael Keon and Max Harris.

With the advent of modernism the appearance and traditions of the portrait underwent a transformation. Strict representation was rejected by the avant-garde and likenesses came to be considered more holistically: ideas and emotions, form and colour could be as important as the identifying characteristics of the sitter.

Only one of the portraits displayed in the exhibition was commissioned, and together they offer a fascinating insight into the analytical qualities of this genre, revealing the ways in which portraiture provided a means for testing ideas and documenting a social network of considerable historical importance.

*Those who made and those who saw. Portraits of the Heide circle* considers the wider interaction of the main participants in this group, and the role played by other popular gathering places and creative hubs, such as the Boyd's Murrumbeena Pottery and the Kismet Library in Fitzroy (run by Pauline and Jack McCarthy), demonstrating that Heide was one of several significant sites for the evolution and exploration of Australian modernism.

The exhibition features a number of portraits which have not been exhibited publicly before, including an important self-portrait by Joy Hester, created on the day peace was declared in August 1945, and a rare self-portrait by Danila Vassilieff.

*Those who made and those who saw. Portraits of the Heide circle* is the fourth exhibition to be held in the Albert & Barbara Tucker Gallery, a unique space at Heide Museum of Modern Art. Two exhibitions are presented annually; one that examines an aspect of Tucker's oeuvre, and a second that considers his work in context.

Curators Lesley Harding and Linda Short are available for interview.

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***Those who made and those who saw***  
***Portraits of the Heide circle***  
**3 November 2007 – 15 June 2008**  
**Heide III: Albert & Barbara Tucker Gallery**  
**Curators: Lesley Harding & Linda Short**

**ASSOCIATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS IN 2007:**

**Tuesday 6 November 2007, 2.00pm**

**Exhibition tour**

***Those who made and those who saw. Portraits of the Heide circle***

Tickets: FREE with admission

**Sunday 11 November 2007, 2.00pm**

**Curators' floor talk**

***Those who made and those who saw. Portraits of the Heide circle***

Lesley Harding, Curator, Tucker Collection & Archive and Linda Short, Assistant Curator

Tickets: FREE with admission

**Tuesday 13 November 2007, 2.00pm**

**Exhibition tour**

***Those who made and those who saw. Portraits of the Heide circle***

Tickets: FREE with admission

**Tuesday 4 December 2007, 2.00pm**

**Exhibition tour**

***Those who made and those who saw. Portraits of the Heide circle***

Tickets: FREE with admission

**Tuesday 11 December 2007, 2.00pm**

**Exhibition tour**

***Those who made and those who saw. Portraits of the Heide circle***

Tickets: FREE with admission

**Tuesday 18 December 2007, 2.00pm**

**Exhibition tour**

***Those who made and those who saw. Portraits of the Heide circle***

Tickets: FREE with admission

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**Heide Museum of Modern Art**

7 Templestowe Road

Bulleen Victoria 3105 Australia

T 03 9850 1500

[info@heide.com.au](mailto:info@heide.com.au) [www.heide.com.au](http://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

**For further media information:**

**Magda Petkoff, Purple Media**

**T: 03 9328 4522**

**M: 0409 436 473**

**E: [magda@purplemedia.com.au](mailto:magda@purplemedia.com.au)**

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Indemnification for this exhibition is provided by the Victorian Government

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