

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HEIDE UNVEILS THE TUCKER GIFT

“Perhaps my imagination is too vivid. But whenever I visit Heide I feel its atmosphere as a tangible thing ... I breathe in its essence of creative energy. It speaks to me of its past as well as its present. It is one of those rare places in which you only have to set foot, to know that you are in the presence of a universal significance. So, of course the Tucker Collection had to come to Heide. Heide itself told us it should.”

**Barbara Tucker, Heide Patron, Life Benefactor and widow of artist Albert Tucker.**

Albert Tucker had a long association with Heide, well before the establishment of the property as a public art museum. He first met the original owners John and Sunday Reed, champions of contemporary art of the day, in 1937 and became a frequent visitor to their home, along with other leading artists including Sidney Nolan, Mirka Mora, Charles Blackman, Arthur Boyd and John Perceval, among others.

Prior to his death in 1999, Albert Tucker and wife Barbara were involved in discussions with Heide Museum of Modern Art for the donation of their private collection of artworks, library and archives. The vision for this remarkable gift, for which there are few precedents in Australia, is now being realised through the generosity of Barbara Tucker. Works will be exhibited in Heide's much-anticipated **Albert & Barbara Tucker Gallery** and **Tucker Study Centre**, opening Tuesday 18 July 2006.

The Tucker Gift is a collection of national significance that will greatly enhance the Museum's existing collection of artworks. The Gift in its entirety comprises over 200 paintings representing the breadth of Tucker's work and reflecting the important periods and foremost themes of his career. In addition, it includes paintings and drawings by Joy Hester, Sidney Nolan, Arthur Boyd and Danila Vassilieff.

The first tranche of the **Tucker Gift** was formally donated by Barbara Tucker to Heide Museum of Modern Art in 2005, in memory of her late husband. The tranche encompasses two works from Tucker's landmark *Images of Modern Evil* series; an early self-portrait; several 1940s Melbourne paintings; works painted during the 13 years he lived overseas; and three major paintings from later in his career.

An extraordinary archive accompanies the collection, including catalogues, correspondence, photographs, sketchbooks and press clippings. These, together with around 1,000 books from Albert and Barbara Tucker's personal library, will be available to researchers through the Tucker Study Centre. This archive will also inform and enrich Heide's ongoing exhibition program.

The Albert & Barbara Tucker Gallery, together with the Tucker Study Centre, is part of Heide's 2005-06 Redevelopment Program. The Gallery will present newly researched perspectives and contextual interpretations of the work and life of Albert Tucker through changing exhibitions that look both in-depth at Tucker's oeuvre and examine his work in context. These exhibitions will draw upon the significant collection of artworks and archive material gifted to Heide by Barbara Tucker, as well as other public and private collections.

The Albert & Barbara Tucker Gallery will open Tuesday 18 July 2006 with the inaugural exhibition *Meeting a dream: Albert Tucker in Paris 1948-1952*, and includes many of the paintings Tucker exhibited in his first solo show at Galerie Huit in Paris.

The new Tucker Study Centre will be open to the public throughout the inaugural exhibition, *Meeting a dream*, showcasing personal archival material from Albert Tucker's Paris period. At the close of the exhibition, the Tucker Study Centre will be available to visitors by appointment.

Lesley Harding, Curator, Tucker Collection & Archive, is available for interview.

**Heide Museum of Modern Art is currently closed during the final stages of the 2005-06 Redevelopment Program. The new Heide opens 18 July 2006.**

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**Meeting a dream: Albert Tucker in Paris 1948 – 1952**

**18 July – 5 November 2006**

**Heide III: Albert & Barbara Tucker Gallery**

**Curator: Lesley Harding**

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**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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**For further media information:**

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**Heide 2005-06 Redevelopment Program Partners**



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