

**MEDIA RELEASE**

10 June 2015

# **ABSTRACTION: THE HEIDE COLLECTION FROM NOLAN TO THE '90s**

Opening on 4 July 2015, *Abstraction: The Heide Collection, From Nolan to the '90s* brings together a selection of Heide Collection works from the 1930s to those by present-day artists, showing several individual approaches to abstraction. The featured artists are predominantly painters who share a gestural or lyrical style of mark-making.



Sidney Nolan, *Abstract (Beach)* c. 1940, oil and vehicular paint on pulp board, 22.7 x 28.9 cm, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, Gift of Barrett Reid 1993

The earliest works in the exhibition are by Sam Atyeo and Sidney Nolan, two of the first proponents of abstraction in Melbourne. Both studied for a time at the National Gallery School before rejecting its academic approach in favour of self-directed, more experimental practices. Atyeo's non-objective compositions based on living forms were often inspired by dance and music, while Nolan produced geometric designs with expressive elements that take their cue from the work of Bauhaus modernists such as Paul Klee and László Moholy-Nagy.

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The next phase of modernist abstraction is represented by contemporaries John Passmore, whose painting evolves from Cezanne-like forms, and Roger Kemp, whose paintings and prints are inspired by universal rhythms and the transcendental possibilities of non-representational visual language. More recent works by Paul Boston extend this approach in their meditative arrangements of ambiguous organic shapes that draw on his experience of Zen philosophy and his reflections on being. Open-ended associations are likewise a hallmark of Aida Tomescu's intensively worked paintings, which combine a dense application of paint, emotive colour and calligraphic brushstrokes. With evocative titles they summon figurative allusions yet at the same time resist being limited to one interpretation.



Paul Boston, *Painting with blue and orange*, 1999, oil on linen, 122 x 137 cm, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne , Gift of Rae Rothfield 2010, © Paul Boston

***Curator Linda Michael is available for interview.  
High res images are available upon request.***

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### **EXHIBITION**

#### **ABSTRACTION: THE HEIDE COLLECTION**

#### **FROM NOLAN TO THE '90S**

**Saturday 4 July – Sunday 11 October 2015**

### **RELATED PROGRAMS**

#### **ART TALK: ABSTRACTION**

**Saturday 4 July, 2pm**

Looking at a selection of paintings from the Heide Collection, senior curator Linda Michael discusses a variety of approaches to lyrical abstraction in Australian art from the 1930s to today.

**FREE** with admission

**Venue** Heide II

#### **ART TALK: THINKING ABOUT ABSTRACTION AND COLLECTING ABSTRACT ART**

**Sunday 26 July, 2pm**

Gallerist Charles Nodrum discusses his extensive knowledge of abstract art in Australia from the 1950s through to the present day.

**FREE** with admission

**Venue** Heide II

**- END MEDIA RELEASE-**

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Museum Opening Hours  
Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5pm. Closed Mondays.