

Albert Tucker Photographs: Artists and Their Milieu

24 March to 9 September 2012
Albert & Barbara Tucker Gallery
Curators: Sue Cramer and Linda Michael

HEIDE
MUSEUM
OF MODERN
ART



Albert Tucker
*In the Mirror: Self Portrait
with Joy Hester (detail) 1939*
gelatin silver photograph
40.1 x 30.4 cm
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001

Albert Tucker (1914–1999) photographed the people and places around him as a personal record—only later at the suggestion of others were these images printed for public display, revealing him as a fine photographer, an ‘accidental historian’ of the Heide circle and other artist communities in the late 1930s to mid-1940s in Melbourne. Though unposed and using available light, his photographs of artists, family and friends reveal a keen eye for composition and dramatic, even cinematic, use of light and shade.

This selection documents the life of artists from within their milieu, in solo and group portraits and images of spaces they lived and worked in. Tucker captures artists both in individual portraits and group shots that convey a sense of shared enterprise, friendships, and extended social networks. A few later photos from the 1960s allow us to see noted artists like Arthur Boyd and Sidney Nolan in youth and maturity. Several candid self-portraits show Tucker directing the camera at a mirror, while Joy Hester, a frequent portrait subject, is shown in a range of different lights.

The artist’s studio is a subject of particular focus in the 1940s, and a later image of Cezanne’s atelier in Aix en Provence continues this theme. While a few photographs show fellow Melbourne artists at work, many focus on the studio interiors themselves. We see domestic rooms doubling as improvised work spaces, in which art is integrated into daily life—brushes, paints and canvases intermingle with personal effects. Other images depict views through studio windows of the inner-city streets of Melbourne’s past.

Tucker documented artists’ living spaces, ranging from modest inner-city digs to the relative luxury of Heide I and various artist hubs in the outer suburbs of Melbourne: Justus Jorgensen’s Montsalvat in Eltham and the Boyd family’s Open Country in Murrumbeena—both sites for artist enclaves; Adrian Lawlor’s striking, Bauhaus-inspired house in Warrandyte; and Danila Vassilieff’s extraordinary residence Stonygrad. Vassilieff built his home from local stone, making concrete his belief that ‘art should be lived’, one that seems to imbue the convivial and fluid milieu to which Tucker belonged.

List of works

This catalogue is arranged alphabetically by artist then chronologically. Measurements are height before width. Exhibition prints are sheet size.

Athol Shmith

born 1914 Melbourne, Victoria.
Lived and worked Melbourne.
Died 1990



47 Robe St. St Kilda 1945
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria

Albert Tucker

born 1914 Melbourne, Victoria.
Lived and worked Melbourne.
Died 1999



Untitled (David Boyd) c.1945
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



26 Little Collins Street c.1939
gelatin silver photograph
40.4 x 30.5 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Matcham Skipper c.1939
gelatin silver photograph
5 x 4 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



*The Studio, 26 Little Collins Street,
Melbourne* c.1939
gelatin silver photograph
20 x 16 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



*Matcham Skipper and Myra Gould, Little
Collins Street, Melbourne* c.1940
exhibition print from original gelatin
silver photograph
29.7 x 42 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Yosl Bergner c.1940
gelatin silver photograph
40.4 x 30.5 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Adrian Lawlor c.1941
gelatin silver photograph
40.5 x 30.6 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Adrian Lawlor's House, Warrandyte c.1941
exhibition print from original gelatin
silver photograph
29.7 x 42 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Adrian Lawlor's House, Warrandyte c.1941
exhibition print from original gelatin
silver photograph
29.7 x 42 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Josl Bergner and Adrian Lawlor c.1941
gelatin silver photograph
30.6 x 40.4 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Yvonne Lennie c.1941
exhibition print from original gelatin
silver photograph
29.7 x 42 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Eltham, Jorgensen's c.1943
exhibition print from original gelatin
silver photograph
29.7 x 42 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Jorgensen's Gallery, Eltham c.1943
exhibition print from original gelatin
silver photograph
29.7 x 42 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Justus Jorgensen c.1943
gelatin silver photograph
40.5 x 30.5 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Matcham Skipper c.1943
gelatin silver photograph
30.5 x 40.4 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



*Merric Boyd Decorating a Ceramic Jug,
Open Country, Murrumbidgee* c.1943
gelatin silver photograph
30.2 x 40.2 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Portrait of Joy Hester c.1943
gelatin silver photograph
30.5 x 40.6 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001

Bert 1939–45
gelatin silver contact print
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



*In the Mirror: Self Portrait with
Joy Hester* 1939
gelatin silver photograph
40.1 x 30.4 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Joy Hester in Sydney 1939
exhibition print from original gelatin
silver photograph
42 x 29.7 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008

*Stonygrad, with woman, possibly Joy
Hester* 1939–45
exhibition print from original gelatin
silver photograph
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



*Arthur Boyd, Yvonne Lennie and Joy
Hester* c.1944
gelatin silver photograph
30.4 x 40.3 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



John Perceval and Mary Boyd c.1944
exhibition print from original gelatin
silver photograph
30.3 x 40.2 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



*Rah Fizelle, Sali Herman and Francis
Lymburner* 1940
gelatin silver photograph
30.5 x 40.3 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Arthur Boyd's Studio c.1945
gelatin silver photograph
4 x 5 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Vassiliev's House Warrandyte c.1944
gelatin silver photograph
4 x 5 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Self Portrait 1940
gelatin silver photograph
40.2 x 30.4 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Boyd's House c.1945
gelatin silver photograph
4 x 5 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift Barbara Tucker 2008



*Frank and Margel Hinder at a Meeting of
the Contemporary Art Society* 1940
gelatin silver photograph
30.6 x 40.4 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Arthur Boyd's Studio c.1945
gelatin silver photograph
30.4 x 40.2 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



The Dining Room Table c.1945
gelatin silver photograph
30.4 x 40.3 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Portrait of Arthur Boyd in his Studio
c.1945
gelatin silver photograph
40.6 x 30.6 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Untitled (Family Group at Open Country)
c.1945
exhibition print from original gelatin
silver photograph
29.7 x 42 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Joy Hester, Fitzroy Gardens 1942
exhibition print from original gelatin
silver photograph
42 x 29.7 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Yvonne Lennie 1942
exhibition print from original gelatin
silver photograph
42 x 29.7 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Agnes Street, Jolimont 1943
gelatin silver photograph
30.5 x 40.5 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Arthur Boyd and John Perceval 1943
gelatin silver photograph
30.3 x 40.3 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Boyd's Dining Room Jan 1943
exhibition print from original gelatin
silver photograph
29.7 x 42 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Interior with 'Image of Modern Evil: Spring in Fitzroy' 1943
gelatin silver photograph
30.3 x 40.4 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001

Jolimont 1943
exhibition print from original gelatin silver photograph
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Danila Vassilieff Building Stonygrad 1944
gelatin silver photograph
40.5 x 30.5 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Stonygrad Nearing Completion 1944
exhibition print from original gelatin silver photograph
29.7 x 42 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Stonygrad 1944
exhibition print from original gelatin silver photograph
29.7 x 42 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Open Country Group Portrait 1944-45
gelatin silver photograph
30.5 x 40.2 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Untitled 1944
gelatin silver photograph
4 x 5 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and
State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Interior with 'Self Portrait' 1945
gelatin silver photograph
30.4 x 40.2 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Sidney Nolan and Joy Hester in his Studio 1945
gelatin silver photograph
30.4 x 40.4 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Sidney Nolan in His Studio, Gatehouse Street, Parkville 1945
gelatin silver photograph
30.5 x 40.5 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Interior with 'Man's Head' 1946
gelatin silver photograph
30.4 x 40.3 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Mary Dickson at Galerie Huit 1952
gelatin silver photograph
30.5 x 40.3 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Sam Atyeo and Anne Lecoultre 1952
gelatin silver photograph
30.4 x 40.3 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



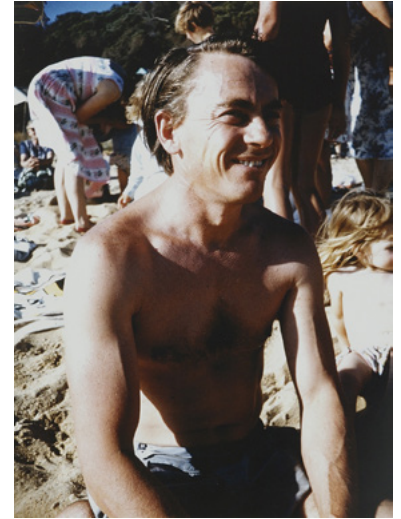
Sidney Nolan 1954
gelatin silver photograph
30.4 x 40.3 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Arthur Boyd and Sidney Nolan, Arthur Boyd's Studio, Hampton Lane, London c.1960
Type C photograph
43.2 x 30.8 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Mirka Mora Showing off her Frilly Knickers, Georges Mora, Lucy Beck, Sunday Reed at Aspendale 1961
Type C photograph
41.2 x 32.5 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Portrait of John Perceval at Aspendale 1961
Type C photograph
41.4 x 31.2 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Interior Cezanne's Studio, Aix-en-Provence, France 1967
gelatin silver photograph
30.5 x 40.5 cm
On loan from Barbara Tucker 2007



Arthur Boyd Painting in the Grounds at Tucker's House at Hurstbridge 1968
gelatin silver photograph
40 x 30.5 cm
On loan from Barbara Tucker 2007



Frank Hodgkinson, Clifton Pugh and Fred Williams, Cottlesbridge, near Melbourne
c.1974–75
gelatin silver photograph
30.5 x 40.5 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Fred Williams on a Painting Trip Near Cottlesbridge c.1974–75
gelatin silver photograph
30.6 x 40.4 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001

Barbara Tucker

born 1934, Melbourne, Victoria.
Died 2015



Albert Tucker, Arthur Boyd and Sidney Nolan, Hurstbridge 1968
gelatin silver photograph
30.6 x 40.6 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001
