After Dark: Nocturnes from the Heide Collection

3 March to 26 August 2018 Albert and Barbara Tucker Gallery Curator: Kendrah Morgan





Bus Stop 1954
oil on composition board
62 x 81 cm
Gift of the Albert and Barbara Tucker
Foundation 2017

This exhibition takes its inspiration from Albert Tucker's night images, the earliest of which recorded the mysterious lighting effects of Melbourne's wartime 'brown-out' in the 1940s and the clandestine activities that Tucker witnessed after dark on the city's shadowy streets. Nocturnal imagery took hold in his imagination and he returned to it at different points throughout his career, often creating unsettling scenes redolent with a sense of impending menace.

The term nocturne was originally ascribed to melancholic musical compositions and first used in relation to art by the nineteenth-century American painter James McNeill Whistler, as a title for his evocations of night or twilight. The selection of nocturnes on display here reveals a range of conceptual and aesthetic possibilities within the theme: from Tucker's surreal encounters on lamp-lit streets to poetic reflections of moonlight on water, abstracted studies of the cosmos, nightmarish faces emerging from shadow, intimate embraces in the fading day, and sublime apocalyptic visions.

Darkness, often pierced by light, is used in many of the works as a metaphor for diverse aspects of the human condition—including fear, loneliness, solitude, serenity and wonder. In Charles Blackman's monumental Face, 1956, for example, the encroaching shadows suggest the loss of sight and attendant alienation suffered by his wife Barbara. Conversely, Blackman's ghostly depiction of Sunday Reed in her moonlit garden has a sense of self-imposed introspection and seclusion. In Katthy Cavaliere's Untitled Home, 2007/2016 the dark setting alludes to the dimness of daily existence, against which a jumble of plastic rubbish bags, lit from within as by magic, appears as an object of unexpected beauty.

List of works

This catalogue is arranged alphabetically by artist then chronologically. Measurements are height before width before depth.

Yosl Bergner

born 1920 Vienna; arrived 1937 Australia; Israel from 1950; died 2017 Tel Aviv



(Man and Woman) 1942 oil on composition board 59.5 x 43.5 cm On long-term loan from the Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation

Asher Bilu

born 1936 Tel-Aviv, Mandatory Palestine; arrived 1956 Australia



Abstract II 1962 aquatint image 38.5 x 34.5 cm; sheet 56 x 38 cm Bequest of John and Sunday Reed 1982

Charles Blackman

born 1928 Sydney; died 2018 Sydney



The Birthday 1953 enamel on muslin on composition board 62 x 74.5 cm Bequest of Barrett Reid 2000



Face 1959
oil on composition board
121.5 x 91.5 cm
Gift of the Trustees of the Museum of
Modern Art and Design of Australia, to
the National Gallery of Victoria 1981.
Transferred to Heide Museum of Modern
Art by the Council of Trustees of the
National Gallery of Victoria 2005.



Night Fishing 1987 watercolour on paper 45.8 x 61 cm Gift of Charles Blackman 1988



Sunday in the Moonlight 1990 synthetic polymer paint on canvas 119.5 x 109 cm Gift of Charles Blackman 1990

Peter Booth

born 1940 Sheffield, England; arrived 1958 Australia



Untitled c.1978
pastel on paper
55.3 x 74.8 cm
Gift of Rae Rothfield 1998

Peter Booth

born 1940 Sheffield, England; arrived 1958 Australia



Untitled 1986 charcoal on paper 75 x 105.5 cm Purchased 1986

Katthy Cavaliere

born 1972 Sarteano, Tuscany, Italy; arrived 1976 Australia; died 2012 Sydney



untitled home 2007, 2016 chromogenic colour print on silver based metallic paper 44 x 65.5 cm Gift of the Estate of Katthy Cavaliere 2017

Joy Hester

born 1920 Melbourne; died 1960 Melbourne



From an Incredible Night Dream c.1946 brush and ink, wash and gouache on paper 25.1 x 31.5 cm Gift of Barrett Reid 1990

Laurence Hope

born 1927 Sydney, died 2016



City People 1955 oil and wash on paper 25.4 x 19.5 cm Bequest of John and Sunday Reed 1982

Carol Jerrems

born 1949 Melbourne; died 1980 Sydney



Boys 1973, 2010, gelatin silver photograph 50.5 x 40.6 cm From a portfolio of five photographs published by Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, in 2010 with the kind permission of Ken Jerrems and the Estate of Lance Jerrems [Linda Sly].



Night Sky Southern Cross, from the series Violence to Non-violence, Prints from the Peace Project 1988-1993 screenprint image 61 x 80 cm; sheet 61 x 80 cm Gift of William Kelly 1994

Erica McGilchrist

born 1926 Mt Gambier, South Australia; died 2014 Melbourne



Bush Track at Night 1952 pen and ink and wash on paper 36.5 x 27 cm Gift of Erica McGilchrist 1999

Erica McGilchrist

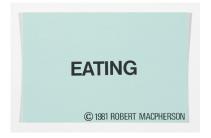
born 1926 Mt Gambier, South Australia; died 2014 Melbourne



Midnight Argument 1954 lithograph 35 x 25 cm Gift of Erica McGilchrist 1999

Robert MacPherson

born 1937 Brisbane



Eating, Sleeping, Lying, Sitting, Standing, Walking, Running, Laughing, Weeping, Breathing, Procreating Copyright Series 1981 offset lithograph on card 11 parts: each 10.3 x 15.3 cm Gift of Robert MacPherson 2011

Sidney Nolan

born 1917 Melbourne; died 1992 London, United Kingdom



Abstract c.1940 enamel and wash on cardboard 21.2 x 29.1 cm Bequest of John and Sunday Reed 1982



Moon Boy 1940 alkyd on velvet on composition board 55 x 57.5 cm Bequest of Barrett Reid 2000



St Kilda II 1940 oil, enamel and pencil on paper 35.5 x 43 cm Bequest of John and Sunday Reed 1982

John Perceval

born 1923 Bruce Rock, Western Australia; died 2000 Melbourne



Suburban Roofs at Night 1944 oil on muslin on cardboard 63.4 x 75.5 cm Purchased from John and Sunday Reed 1980

Kathy Temin born 1968 Sydney



Speechless 1998 felt on stretcher with Perspex bowl 47.0 x 47.0 x 24.0 cm Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Lion Capital Pty Ltd 2010

Albert Tucker born 1914 Melbourne; died 1999 Melbourne



Luna Park 1945 oil on composition board 53 x 81 cm Gift of Barbara Tucker 2005



Tivoli Clown 1945 oil on composition board 61 x 45.5 cm Gift of Barbara Tucker 2005



Vaudevillian 1946 oil on muslin on cardboard 67 x 78.5 cm Bequest of John and Sunday Reed 1982



Woman Rue St Denis I 1950 synthetic polymer paint, brush and ink on paper 52 x 37 cm On long-term loan from the Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation



Bus Stop 1954 oil on composition board 62 x 81 cm Gift of the Albert and Barbara Tucker Foundation 2017



Killing 1954
oil on composition board
81 x 62 cm
On long-term loan from the Albert &
Barbara Tucker Foundation



At the End of My Street 1989 synthetic polymer paint on paper 43.5 x 54.5 cm On long-term loan from the Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation

Danila Vassilieff

born 1897 Kagalnitskaya, Russian Empire; arrived 1923 Australia; lived 1929-34 South America, West Indies, United Kingdom; returned 1935 Australia; died 1958 Melbourne



Three Girls on the Street - a Nocturne 1948 oil on composition board 44.5 x 37.3 cm On long-term loan from the Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation

Lorri Whiting

born 1927 Melbourne; Italy from 1955



Sea by Night 1993 collage of synthetic polymer paint on paper on board 26 x 43 cm Gift of Lorri Whiting 1995



Sea by Night: Green Flashing Light 1993 collage of synthetic polymer paint on paper on board 22 x 28 cm Gift of Lorri Whiting 1995