Cry of the Land

20 March to 15 August 2021 Albert and Barbara Tucker Gallery Curator: Alice Dickins





Karla Dickens, Mother's Little Helpers 2019 single channel video, duration: 07.32 min Courtesy of the artist and Andrew Baker Art Dealer. Brisbane

Inspired by Albert Tucker's active support of environmental conservation, this exhibition charts diverse and often moving interpretations of the Australian landscape. It highlights the work of artists whose respect for the environment compels them to explore instinctive relationships to place and draw attention to the devastating effects of the climate crisis.

Paintings by Tucker from the 1960s and 70s, when he was highly alert to environmental issues, are shown alongside works by his friends Sidney Nolan, Clifton Pugh and Fred Williams, and images by contemporary artists such as Fiona Hall and Mandy Martin, whose conservation interests underpin much of their artistic practice. Artworks in a range of media by First Nations artists Karla Dickens, Julie Gough, Dale Harding, and Katie West illustrate a deep cultural, historical and spiritual connection to Country and point to the importance of traditional knowledge and land management practices in combatting the urgent challenges that Australia is facing.

Cry of the Land demonstrates the resilience and enduring power of nature, from the desert to the coast, through fire, drought and flood. The artists encourage their audience to view the landscape through their eyes, to feel its call and heed its cry for help. Art can ask us to confront our past, and suggest possible solutions or futures. Through contemplation, collaboration, and collective endeavour we can activate what we have learned and lead the way to change.

List of works

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

Karla Dickens

(Wiradjuri) born 1967, Djubuguli/Cadi/Sydney, New South Wales. Lives and works Lismore, New South Wales



Mother's Little Helpers 2019 single channel video duration: 07.32 min Courtesy of the artist and Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane

Julie Gough

(Trawlwooway) born 1965, Naarm/Melbourne, Victoria. Lives and works Nipaluna/Hobart, Tasmania



Land and Sky from Sea 1 2005 oxides and ink on canvas 81.4 × 41.4 cm National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne Purchased with funds donated by Supporters and Patrons of Indigenous Art 2005



Land and Sky from Sea 2 2005 oxides and ink on canvas 80.4 × 54.2 cm National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne Purchased with funds donated by Supporters and Patrons of Indigenous Art 2005

Fiona Hall

born 1953, Sydney, New South Wales. Lives and works Hobart, Tasmania



Brachychiton—Nanungguwa 2009–11 etching 69 × 79 cm Courtesy of the artist and Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney



Casuarina—Mawurraki 2009–11 etching 69 × 79 cm Courtesy of the artist and Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney



Cycads—Ngathu 2009-11 etching 69 × 79 cm Courtesy of the artist and Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney



Pandanus—Gunga 2009–11 etching 69 × 79 cm Courtesy of the artist and Rosyln Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

Dale Harding

(Bidjara, Ghungalu and Garingbal peoples, Central Queensland) born 1982, Moranbah, Queensland.Lives and works in Brisbane, Queensland



Red Hill Quarry to Blackwater Coal 2019–20 ochre, dry pigment, acrylic binder on linen 150 × 300 cm (overall) Heide Museum of Modern Art Purchased through the Ann Bennett Acquisition Fund 2021

Mandy Martin

born 1952, Adelaide, South Australia. Lived and worked Central West, New South Wales. Died 2021



Falling Star 5 2012
pigment and oil on linen
76 × 280 cm
Courtesy of the artist's estate and
Australian Galleries, Melbourne
and Sydney

Sidney Nolan

born 1917, Melbourne, Victoria. Lived and worked Melbourne, and London, England from 1953–92. Died 1992, London



After Grassfire 1944
enamel paint on canvas
64 × 76.5 cm
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Gift of Sir Sidney and Lady Nolan 1983



Horse c.1952 brush and ink on paper 41 × 58 cm Heide Museum of Modern Art Purchased 2011

Clifton Pugh

born 1924, Melbourne, Victoria. Died 1990



Day of Winter 1959 oil on composition board 68.9 × 91.4 cm National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne Purchased 1959

Albert Tucker

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



Landscape 1962 synthetic polymer paint on composition board 59.5 × 80 cm Albert and Barbara Tucker Foundation



(Springbrook Waterfall) 1974 synthetic polymer paint, watercolour and chalk on paper 50.7 × 66.5 cm Albert and Barbara Tucker Foundation



Springbrook Landscape 1974 synthetic polymer paint, watercolour, ink and chalk on paper 51 × 66.5 cm Heide Museum of Modern Art Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008

Katie West

(Yindjibarndi) born 1988, Boorloo/Perth, Western Australia. Lives and works Western Australia



Clearing 2019
suspended fabric: silk dyed with
eucalyptus and wattles collected
from area around Maroondah Dam.
cushions: silk dyed with eucalyptus
leaves and bark; muslin dyed with puff
ball fungus; calico dyed with eucalyptus
leaves and bark and puff ball fungus;
all filled with wool and cotton wadding.
texts by Kerry Arabena, Bruce Pascoe,
Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin, and Uncle
David Wandin in partnership with Yarra
Ranges Council, Dixon's Creek Primary
School, Ralph Hume, Victor Steffensen
and Brett Ellis.

soundscape: composed by Simon Charles with spoken score by Katie West, duration: 18.24 min. Courtesy of the artist and Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney

Fred Williams

born 1927, Melbourne, Victoria. Lived and worked in Melbourne and England 1951–56. Died 1982, Melbourne



Trees in Landscape 1963 tempera and oil on composition board 120 × 152.4 cm Heide Museum of Modern Art Bequest of John and Sunday Reed 1982