

Albert Tucker and Fred Williams: The Springbrook Landscapes

25 March to 27 August 2017
Albert & Barbara Tucker Gallery
Curator: Linda Short

HEIDE
MUSEUM
OF MODERN
ART



Fred Williams
Cliff Face, Springbrook I 1971
synthetic polymer paint and gouache on
Arches paper
image 40.5 x 55.5 cm; sheet 77 x 55.5 cm
Estate of Fred Williams

Albert Tucker and Fred Williams painted the spectacular surrounds of the Springbrook rainforest while holidaying there together in 1971. The Australian landscape had been a creative focus for both of them for over a decade, each having found a new appreciation for the local environment after spending time away from their homeland. Tucker, the elder by thirteen years, lived and travelled extensively overseas from 1947 until 1960, while Williams based himself in London between 1952 and 1956.

In the late 1960s the two artists began visiting each other's studio and established a rapport. By then Tucker and his wife Barbara were settled on a bush-block in rural Hurstbridge on the outskirts of Melbourne. Their passion for the environment and its conservation had also led them to buy a tract of pristine rainforest at Springbrook in the Gold Coast hinterland, a place of natural beauty and significance. They invited Fred and Lyn Williams and their three children to join them there in August 1971, when the family were making a road trip to Brisbane for an exhibition of Williams's gouaches.

Williams created numerous outdoor studies during his week at Springbrook and developed several more related pictures back in Melbourne. Encouraged by Tucker, he painted in acrylic as well as gouache over this period, trialling a heightened palette that would capture the unique character of the area. Tucker was less inclined to work on location but joined Williams to sketch *en plein air*. He produced his Springbrook paintings later in the studio, evoking the colours, textures and atmosphere of the region with an unusual delicacy.

Near the end of the visit Williams wrote in his diary, 'Queensland is full of attractive symbols in the landscape', which would inspire him to return there and paint different northern locales in 1973 and 1977. Tucker continued to record the idyllic scenery surrounding his property throughout the 1970s and it left an indelible impression on him. He and Barbara subsequently acquired more land to increase the protected zone in their care, some of which is now preserved as national park.

List of works

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

Albert Tucker

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



Springbrook Landscape c.1971
watercolour, synthetic polymer paint and
pastel on paper
29.4 x 38.8 cm
Private collection, Melbourne



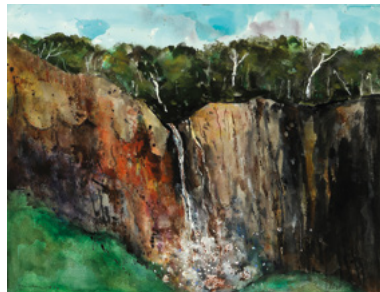
Springbrook 1973
synthetic polymer paint and watercolour
on paper
29 x 38.5 cm
Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation



Springbrook 1973
watercolour, ink and charcoal on paper
18 x 26 cm
Gold Coast City Gallery, Queensland
Purchased by the Australian Decorative
and Fine Arts Society for Gold Coast City
Gallery 2014



Springbrook 1973
synthetic polymer paint and watercolour
on cardboard
30 x 40 cm
Private collection, Melbourne



Springbrook Waterfall 1974
synthetic polymer paint, watercolour
and chalk on paper
50.7 x 66.5 cm
Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation



Storm, Springbrook 1974
watercolour and chalk on paper
50.7 x 66.2 cm
Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation



The Falls, Springbrook 1974
watercolour on paper
50 x 65.5 cm
Gold Coast City Gallery, Queensland
Purchased 2000



The Falls, Springbrook 1974
synthetic polymer paint and watercolour
on paper
29.5 x 39 cm
Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation



The Falls, Springbrook 1974
synthetic polymer paint and watercolour
on paper
29.5 x 39 cm
Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation



Springbrook 1974
watercolour and pencil on paper
12 x 17.5 cm
Gold Coast City Gallery, Queensland
Purchased by the Australian Decorative
and Fine Arts Society for Gold Coast City
Gallery 2014



Springbrook 1974
watercolour and pastel on paper
29.5 x 39 cm
Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation



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

Fred Williams

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



Antarctic Beech Tree Trunks, Queensland 1971
synthetic polymer paint and
gouache on paper
image 35.3 x 55.3 cm; sheet 76.8 x 55.3 cm
Estate of Fred Williams



Cliff Face, Springbrook I 1971
synthetic polymer paint and gouache
on paper
image 40.5 x 55.5 cm; sheet 77 x 55.5 cm
Estate of Fred Williams



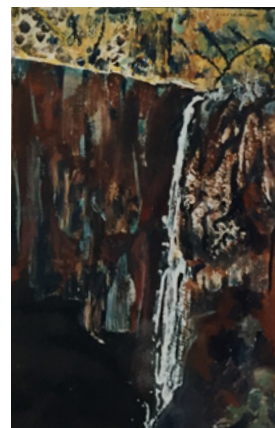
Gold Coast Hinterland I 1971
synthetic polymer paint and gouache on
paper
image 49 x 55.5 cm; sheet 77 x 55.5 cm
Gold Coast City Gallery, Queensland
Purchased 1997



Gold Coast Hinterland II 1971
synthetic polymer paint and gouache
on paper
image 50.2 x 55.1 cm; sheet 76.3 x 55.1 cm
Private collection, courtesy of Philip
Bacon Galleries, Brisbane



Gold Coast Hinterland III 1971
synthetic polymer paint and gouache
on paper
image 19.4 x 76.5 cm; sheet 55.5 x 76.5 cm
Private collection, courtesy of Philip
Bacon Galleries, Brisbane



Purlingbrook Falls 1971
synthetic polymer paint and gouache
on paper
image 56.5 x 36.5 cm; sheet 56 x 77 cm
Private collection, courtesy of
Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane



Rainforest Escarpment, Springbrook 1971
synthetic polymer paint and gouache
on paper
55.5 x 77 cm
Estate of Fred Williams



Rainforest, Springbrook I 1971
synthetic polymer paint and gouache on
paper
image 55.6 x 61.6 cm; sheet 55.6 x 77 cm
Gold Coast City Gallery, Queensland
Gift of Lyn Williams and the Fred
Williams Estate 1997



Rainforest, Springbrook II 1971
synthetic polymer paint and gouache
on paper
image 56.5 x 50.5 cm; sheet 56.5 x 77 cm
Private collection, courtesy of Philip
Bacon Galleries, Brisbane
