

Artists at Leisure: Albert Tucker Photographs

12 March to 13 November 2016
Albert & Barbara Tucker Gallery
Curator: Linda Michael

HEIDE
MUSEUM
OF MODERN
ART



Albert Tucker
Joy Hester, Fitzroy Gardens 1942
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

This exhibition shows artists from the Heide circle enjoying days at the beach, meals with friends, and other leisurely activities, through the eyes of Albert Tucker (1914–1999), who photographed the people and places around him as a personal record. Some photographs reveal the various leisure pursuits Tucker himself enjoyed, typically of a theatrical nature—wrestling matches, dances, soapbox speeches, and plays. In one of many images he took of May Day marches, protestors fight to save workers' Friday nights for leisure time. Then, as now, the importance of leisure in relation to the needs of the workplace was a subject of contention.

Aptly described as the 'accidental historian' of the Heide circle and other artist communities in the late 1930s to mid-1940s in Melbourne, Tucker's natural approach using available light lends itself particularly well to capturing unselfconscious moments. And the drama of the wrestling ring, gymnastic exploits and passionate protests are well-served by his keen eye for composition and dramatic use of light and shade.

Tucker's photographs also reveal, more subtly, that an artist is rarely idle. The product of a restless desire to observe and document his surroundings, they demonstrate a likely detachment from full participation in leisure pursuits. Some of his later colour photographs taken at the beach at Aspendale, where John and Sunday Reed had their holiday house, record scenes that became the subject of later paintings, several of which are also on display.

Along with beachside holidays and occasions at Heide and other Melbourne sites, Tucker captured social and cultural occasions such as performances of the New Theatre, Wirth's Circus and Tivoli, the Yarra bank speakers' forum and legendary showman-wrestler Chief Little Wolf.

List of works

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

Joy Hester

born 1920, Melbourne, Victoria. Lived and worked Melbourne. Died 1960



Bert, 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



Albert Tucker on Railway Line, Point Lonsdale 1945
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

Albert Tucker

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



Joy Hester Doing a Handstand c.1940
gelatin silver photograph
22.4 x 17.3 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



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



Yarra Bank Speakers' Forum c.1942
exhibition print from original gelatin silver photograph
29.7 x 42 cm
Albert Tucker Photograph Collection
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Sidney Nolan Swimming in the Yarra River c.1942
gelatin silver photograph
30.3 x 40.4 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Dick Diamond in May Day March, Melbourne 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



Joy Hester at Heide Playing with the Reeds' Dogs c.1943
gelatin silver photograph
30.6 x 40.5 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Max Harris and Joy Hester in the Tarax Bar c.1943
gelatin silver photograph
30.4 x 40.3 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



Beach Scene 1939-45
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



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



Big Chief Little Wolf 1940
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



Wirth's Circus, Melbourne 1940
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



Wrestling, West Melbourne Stadium 1940
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



Chief Little Wolf and Chief Thunderbird Sydney Stadium 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



Chief Little Wolf and Chief Thunderbird Sydney Stadium 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



Sidney Nolan, Sunday Reed in the Yarra at Heide 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



On the Couch: Max Harris, John Reed, Sidney Nolan and Sunday Reed c.1945
gelatin silver photograph
30.4 x 40.2 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Sunday Reed in the Yarra at Heide c.1945
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



Catholic Evidence Guild Speaker, Yarra Bank Oct 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



Tivoli (Four of the Five Cleveres in 'The Naughty Nineties') Oct 1940
exhibition print from original gelatin silver photograph
29.7 x 42 cm
Albert Tucker Photographic Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and State Library Victoria
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Wirth's Circus, Melbourne Nov 1940
exhibition print from original gelatin silver photograph
29.7 x 42 cm
Albert Tucker Photographic Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art and State Library Victoria
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Joy Hester, Fitzroy Gardens 1942
exhibition print from original gelatin silver photograph
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Joy Hester, Fitzroy Gardens, Melbourne 1942
gelatin silver photograph
40.5 x 30.5 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



At Sorrento, Sidney Nolan Buried, John Reed, Sunday Reed and Joy Hester, Pregnant 1944
gelatin silver photograph
30.2 x 40.2 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Sunday Reed, Sidney Nolan and John Reed; Sidney Nolan Draped in Seaweed 1944

gelatin silver photograph

21.6 x 17.1 cm

Heide Museum of Modern Art

Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



John Reed, Joy Hester, Sunday Reed Carrying Sweeney and Sidney Nolan 1945

gelatin silver photograph

30.4 x 40.3 cm

Heide Museum of Modern Art

Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Joy Hester and Sweeney, St Kilda Beach 1945

gelatin silver photograph

40.5 x 30.5 cm

Heide Museum of Modern Art

Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Joy Hester at St Kilda Beach 1945

gelatin silver photograph

40.5 x 30.5 cm

Heide Museum of Modern Art

Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Joy Hester, John Reed with Binoculars, Sunday Reed and Sidney Nolan Holding Sweeney 1945

gelatin silver photograph

30.3 x 40.2 cm

Heide Museum of Modern Art

Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Joy Hester, Sidney Nolan Holding Sweeney, John and Sunday Reed at Point Lonsdale 1945

gelatin silver photograph

30.3 x 40.3 cm

Heide Museum of Modern Art

Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Camping in the Morris Minor, the Dolomites, Italy, with Mary Dickson c.1951

gelatin silver photograph

40.2 x 30.4 cm

Heide Museum of Modern Art

Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Camping in the Piazza del Popolo, Rome, Italy 1953

gelatin silver photograph

40.4 x 30.5 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



Sunday and John Reed at Aspendale 1961

Type C photograph

31.2 x 40.8 cm

Heide Museum of Modern Art

Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Sunday Reed, Georges Mora, Lucy Beck, Mirka Mora at Aspendale 1961

Type C photograph

30.9 x 41.2 cm

Heide Museum of Modern Art

Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001



Georges Mora at Aspendale 1980
oil on composition board
51 x 38.5 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of the Albert & Barbara Tucker
Foundation 2022



Beach at Aspendale 1984
watercolour and pastel on paper
26 x 56 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
On long-term loan from the Albert &
Barbara Tucker Foundation
