

And I Would Say These Things To No One But You

6 September 2025 – 22 February 2026
Albert & Barbara Tucker Gallery
Curator: Melissa Keys

HEIDE
MUSEUM
OF MODERN
ART



Maria Kontis
I think it's better we wait till after the war
2025
pastel on velvet paper
56 x 76 cm
Courtesy of the artist and
Darren Knight Gallery, Warrane/Sydney

Working in pastel on paper, Maria Kontis creates intricate, finely detailed drawings of fragments of miscellanea such as found photographs, discarded crumpled papers and forms of correspondence. At first glance the drawings appear to be faithful, straightforward reproductions, however, upon closer inspection they have been subjected to slight changes and subtractions.

For this exhibition, Kontis has made a new suite of work that subtly redraws modernist artist Albert Tucker's intriguing photographic recordings of the intimacies of his daily life in the 1940s. Exaggerating irregularities such as blurred focus and existing folds in the paper support, her work poignantly registers aspects of the original chemical prints and physical documents that may otherwise remain unnoticed. Kontis has said that her aim is to create works that 'do not stand apart from Albert Tucker's images as commentary but instead operate alongside them, extending their inner workings and drawing them out of themselves'.

In addition to the suite of drawings, the artist has modified furniture referencing pieces we see in the background of Tucker's photographs—sculpting, erasing and reworking chairs and a side table by planing, rasping and un-making the items that were once part of every-day life at Heide. Variously indexing and refracting one another, the drawings and the sculpted objects work in concert, creating an immersive environment that moves the viewer into the lived experience of an intensely creative artists' collective. Presented in-situ, Kontis' installation creates a space where visitors can experience the Heide circle anew.

List of works

This catalogue is arranged chronologically then alphabetically by title. Measurements are height before width before depth. All works courtesy of the artist and Darren Knight Gallery, Gadigal Country/Sydney

Maria Kontis

Born 1969, Ngambri and Ngunnawal Country/Canberra, Australian National Territory



Everything right now 2017
pastel on velvet paper
2 panels, each 56 x 76 cm



21 flying fortresses came over here very low yesterday 2025
pastel on velvet paper
56 x 76.5 cm



More or less alone in the world 2024
pastel on velvet paper
56 x 76 cm



At the Tivoli, 1940 2025
pastel on velvet paper
56 x 76.5 cm



Bert to Grey 2025
pastel on velvet paper
56 x 76.5 cm



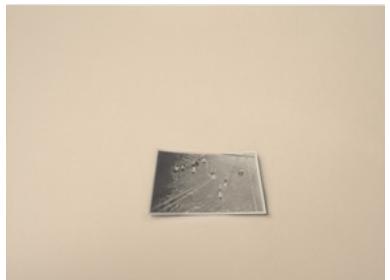
Establishing the Three Little Aussie Painters 2025
pastel on velvet paper
56 x 76.5 cm



He could feel those things I feel 2025
pastel on velvet paper
56 x 76.5 cm



Heide dining chair 2025
oak
110 x 57.5 x 54.5 cm



I feel happy now and love everything 2025
pastel on velvet paper
56 x 76.5 cm



I think it's better we wait till after the war
2025
pastel on velvet paper
65 x 76.5 cm



Joy's chair 2025
maple
86 x 45 x 45 cm



The Spanish Web 2025
pastel on velvet paper
56 x 76.5 cm



There is nothing in the world I couldn't do
2025
pastel on velvet paper
76.5 x 87.5 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Darren Knight
Gallery, Gadigal Country/Syd



Joy's list 2025
pastel on velvet paper
76.5 x 56 cm



Merric's table 2025
mahogany
74 x 108 x 51.5 cm