

MEDIA RELEASE

10 June 2025



HEIDE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PRESENTS LANDMARK EXHIBITION EXPLORING THE SURREALIST PHOTOGRAPHY OF MAN RAY AND MAX DUPAIN



Heide Museum of Modern Art has today announced *Man Ray and Max Dupain*, a landmark exhibition that brings into dialogue the contemporaneous photographs of renowned American-born artist **Man Ray** (1890–1976) and eminent Australian photographer **Max Dupain** (1911–1992). Presented from **6 August to 9 November 2025**, this is the first major Australian exhibition to consider these two influential 20th-century photographers side by side.

Curated by **Emmanuelle de l'Ecotais**, **Man Ray** historian and **Artistic Director of Photo Days, Paris**, and **Lesley Harding**, **Artistic Director of Heide Museum of Modern Art**, the exhibition *Man Ray and Max Dupain* features over **200 photographs** with a focus on the artists' respective engagements with Surrealism. From the nude, still life and portraits, to fashion and advertising, the exhibition offers a rare opportunity to explore the intersecting yet distinct visual languages of two artists who shaped modern photography across continents.

Central to the exhibition is the transformative influence that Man Ray had on Max Dupain. A pioneering figure in the Dada and Surrealism movements, Man Ray transformed photography through innovative techniques such as solarisation and his iconic 'rayographs,' camera-less images that blurred the boundary between abstraction and realism. His influence reached Australian photographer Max Dupain, who, after encountering the book *Photographs by Man Ray 1920–1934*, decisively moved away from Pictorialism and started trialing the latest photographic practices and processes that would become a feature of both his creative and commercial output for the ensuing years.

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Featuring key works such as Man Ray's *Noire et Blanche* (1926) and *Larmes de Verre* (1932), alongside Dupain's *Solarised Hands and Flowers* (c.1934) and *Torso in the Sun* (1941), the exhibition presents two masters of photography at their most inventive. It also considers the artists' creative and romantic partnerships, Man Ray with Lee Miller, and Dupain with Olive Cotton, revealing how these collaborations shaped their respective oeuvres and emphasising the often unsung contribution of women artists to Surrealism and artistic innovation.

Co-curator and Artistic Director of Photo Days, Paris Emmanuelle de l'Ecotais said: *"Man Ray was a revolutionary. His radical approach to photography, embracing chance, accident, and abstraction, redefined the medium. Seeing how these ideas echoed and evolved in the work of Max Dupain reveals an intriguing cross-cultural story of modernism and artistic rebellion."*

Heide Museum of Modern Art Director Lesley Harding said: *"This exhibition continues Heide's commitment to contextualising Australian artists within broader international modernist movements. In bringing together the contemporaneous work of Man Ray and Max Dupain, we illuminate a fascinating dialogue of influence, experimentation, and artistic vision."*

The exhibition *Man Ray and Max Dupain* offers Australian audiences a compelling look at how two visionary artists, working worlds apart, redefined the possibilities of photography.

Ends

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IMAGE CAPTIONS (L-R): Man Ray, *Eye and Tears* (1930s); printed (1972), gelatin silver photograph, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne © Man Ray Trust. ADAGP/Copyright Agency, 2025; Max Dupain, *Hera Roberts* 1936, gelatin silver photograph, National Portrait Gallery

IMAGES available [HERE](#)

EXHIBITION DETAILS:

Man Ray and Max Dupain

6 August – 9 November 2025

Heide Museum of Modern Art, 7 Templestowe Road, Bulleen Victoria 3105

<https://www.heide.com.au/exhibitions/man-ray-max-dupain/>

ABOUT HEIDE

Heide is a public art museum and sculpture park located on a stretch of the Birrarung/Yarra River in Naarm/Melbourne that has long served as a meeting point and as a creative hub.

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Once a significant Wurundjeri gathering place, the site later attracted the artists of the Australian Impressionist School before becoming the home of art patrons John and Sunday Reed in 1934.

The Reeds and their circle of artists and writers embraced the brave and the new in art and ideas and their spirited legacy inspires the museum's activities today, from collaborating with emerging and mid-career artists to celebrating those who have made major contributions to Australian and international art.

Set on 6.5 hectares of parkland with five gallery spaces, award-winning architecture and a distinctive collection of more than 3,600 works of art, Heide holds a special place in the cultural landscape of Australia.

heide.com.au