## Animal Instincts: Moya McKenna and Albert Tucker

5 November 2022 to 19 March 2023 Albert and Barbara Tucker Gallery Guest Curator: Jane Devery





This exhibition brings paintings made over a twenty-year period by the Melbourne contemporary artist Moya McKenna into dialogue with selected works by Albert Tucker from the Heide Collection and Albert and Barbara Tucker Foundation. It is the latest in an ongoing series of exhibitions that focus on the late Australian modernist artist's work and its resonances with contemporary art.

The idea for the project began with Albert Tucker's painting *St Anthony in Australia*, 1987, which references the biblical story of the Temptation of St Anthony. A subject that has fascinated artists throughout art history, from Hieronymous Bosch to Dorothea Tanning, it recounts an episode in the life of the third-century Christian hermit who spent twenty years in solitude in the desert where he experienced hallucinations and resisted the devil in the form of animals, beasts and erotic visions. Tucker's rendition provides not only an unexpected starting point for examining McKenna's idiosyncratic visual language, which is often dream-like, libidinous and populated with animals, but also encourages consideration of some of the formal correspondences between the two artists' works, and their shared intuitive and visceral approach to painting.

Moya McKenna Eine Klieine Nachtmusik 2009 oil on canvas 40 x 56.5 cm Private collection, Melbourne

## List of works

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

## Moya McKenna

born 1973 Guildford, England. Lives and works Melbourne, Victoria



Birth 2003 oil on canvas 55 x 40 cm Courtesy of the artist and Neon Parc, Melbourne



Untitled 2005 oil on canvas 76 x 61 cm Private collection, Melbourne



Untitled 2005 oil on canvas 81 x 61 cm Private collection, Melbourne



Milk 2008 oil on linen 86.5 x 71.5 cm Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney Anonymous gift 2018. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program



Eine Klieine Nachtmusik 2009 oil on canvas 40 x 56.5 cm Private collection, Melbourne



Natural Forces 2009 oil on canvas 41 x 56 cm Hayman Collection, Melbourne



For the Love of Others 2010 oil on canvas 97 x 61 cm Collection of A & R Myer



Nurture 2010 oil on linen 61 x 97 cm Collection of Harry and Demetra Xydas



Uncertain Offering 2010 oil on canvas 97 x 61 cm Collection of Tim Newton



Red Lick 2011
oil on canvas
61 x 97 cm
Collection of Andrea Wilson and Jill Orr



Apparition 2013
oil on canvas
76 x 71 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Neon Parc,
Melbourne



Chalk 2013
oil on canvas
107 x 71 cm
Art Gallery of Ballarat, Victoria
Donated through the Australian
Government's Cultural Gifts Program
by Tony Styant-Browne and Julie Jame,
2021



Bite Back 2019 oil on canvas 86.5 x 97 cm Private collection, Melbourne



Two Bridges 2022 oil on canvas 107 x 122 cm Courtesy of the artist and Neon Parc, Melbourne

## **Albert Tucker** born 1914, Melbourne, Victoria. Lived and worked Melbourne. Died 1999



Dog and Moon 1949 ink, gouache and synthetic polymer paint on paper 52.6 x 37.6 cm Heide Museum of Modern Art Gift of Barbara Tucker 2008



Rebirth 1951
oil on cardboard
51 x 45.7 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
On long-term loan from the
Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation



St Anthony in Australia 1987 oil on composition board 91 x 122 cm Heide Museum of Modern Art Gift of the Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation 2021