

SOTHEBY'S AUSTRALIA PRESENTS

**ALBERT TUCKER**  
**IMAGES OF MODERN EVIL**

A Selling Exhibition

One of the Most Powerful, Influential and Challenging Series in Australian Art

The GI, the Digger and the Victory Girls  
The Evolution of Albert Tucker's Images of Modern Evil



ALBERT TUCKER 1914-1999  
**Image of Modern Evil (1995)**

For private sale

© Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation. Courtesy of Sotheby's Australia

A Dark Vision of a Society Turned Upside Down

Albert Tucker: Images of Modern Evil  
Melbourne, 17 June – 6 July 2019

**MELBOURNE, 14 June 2019** – Sotheby’s Australia is honoured to present **Albert Tucker: Images of Modern Evil**, a selling exhibition offered on behalf of the Albert and Barbara Tucker Foundation, with proceeds from the sale of each work to benefit important social causes.

Albert Tucker’s visual vocabulary, that found its origins in the disruptive traumas created by the Second World War, forms part of the revolutionary iconography that not only changed the course of Australian art but also profoundly influenced successive generations during the second half of the twentieth century and beyond.

*Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby’s Australia, commented: “The current exhibition of 22 paintings, works on paper and sculpture represents the most significant and comprehensive selection of its kind. Drawn from the personal collection of Albert and Barbara Tucker, this display contains many works that have never previously been available for public sale. It seems particularly appropriate that Albert Tucker’s forceful and energetic compositions, that removed the veil of respectability and revealed the rupture, disunity, madness, violence, vulnerability, menace, ambiguity, and urgency confronting our society, continue to play a vital role in our present and future welfare. Sotheby’s Australia is honoured to host this historic exhibition.”*

Tucker’s series of paintings, works on paper and sculpture, collectively titled *Images of Modern Evil*, are considered his magnum opus, a complex and layered trove of visual images and symbols that provided a rich source of inspiration that sustained his image-making over many decades and constitutes one of the most significant series created in the entire history and development of Australian art. Highly personal, inventive, potent, incisive, subversive, intelligent and compelling, the series is reflective of the artist’s own psychological state and his anguished responses to the effects of social disruption and moral decay.

Increasingly abstracted and distorted forms removed the iconography from a more realistic foundation to something singular and unique. A reductive suite of refined motifs – the splayed limbs, floating torsos, crescent mouths, stalk necks, Cycloptic eyes, protruding breasts, radiating light globes – all converged into carnivalesque scenes of temptation and lust. The deconstruction and sexualising of the female form became a metaphor for the erosion of social and moral codes of conduct caused by the destabilising effects of war. In Tucker’s hands, the combination of truncated symbols morphed into iconographic constructs that were simultaneously emblematic, narrative, idiosyncratic and deeply personal.

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS



ALBERT TUCKER 1914-1999

**Flirtation 1974**

For private sale

© Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation.

Courtesy of Sotheby's Australia



ALBERT TUCKER 1914-1999

**Image of Modern Evil 1995**

For private sale

© Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation.

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ALBERT TUCKER 1914-1999

**A.W.O.L.**

For private sale

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**AT A GLANCE**

Albert Tucker  
Images of Modern Evil

Exhibition  
17 June – 6 July 2019  
Monday – Saturday  
10 am – 5 pm  
14-16 Collins Street, Melbourne

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\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium and prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.

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