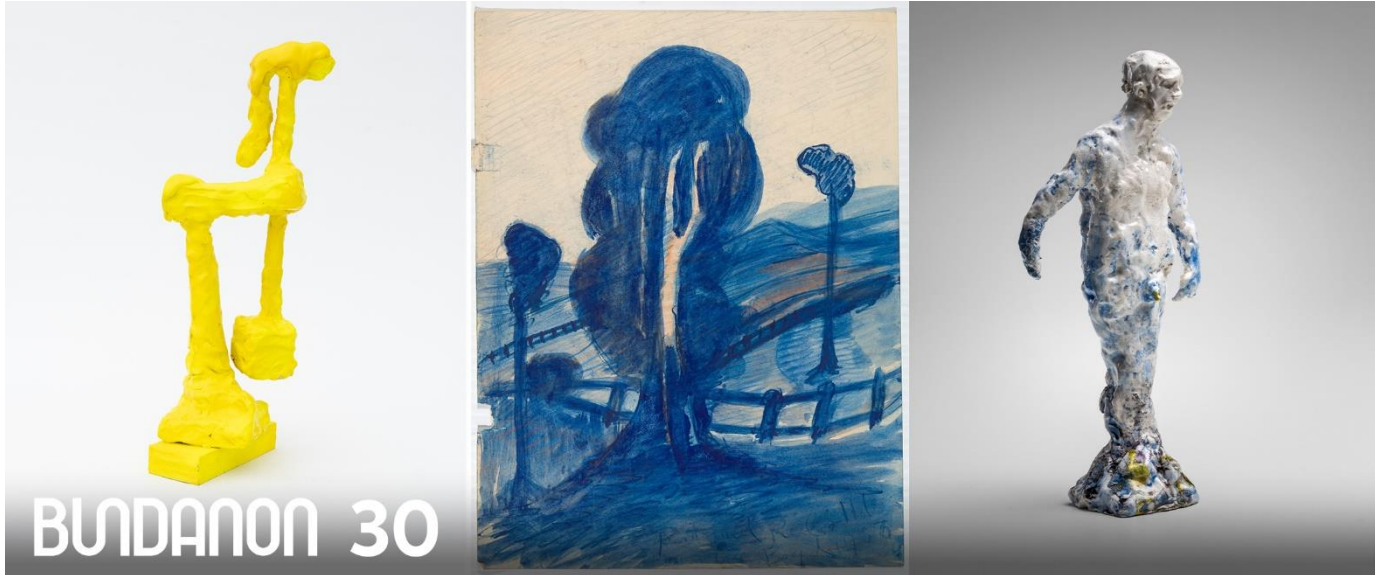


BUNDANON ANNOUNCES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION, 'FANTASTIC FORMS'

1 April – 18 June 2023



L to R: Nabilah Nordin, *Split Spike*, 2022, wood, mouldable plastic, epoxy modelling compound, spray paint. Merric Boyd, *Post-and-rail fences and trees*, 1950, pencil on paper, Bundanon Collection. Stephen Benwell, *Arm out*, 2018 ceramic h19xw9xd4cm photo David McArthur

Shoalhaven, NSW: In 2023 Bundanon celebrates its **30th anniversary**. Established in 1993, it was gifted to the Australian people by Arthur and Yvonne Boyd, representing one of the most significant acts of philanthropy in the history of the arts in Australia. In recognition of this thirty-year milestone, **Bundanon** today announced the new exhibition season ***Fantastic Forms***. Curated by **Boe-Lin Bastian** and **Sophie O'Brien**, *Fantastic Forms* opens at the new Art Museum on Saturday **1 April 2023**. Colourful, abundant and joyful, it celebrates the ritual of artmaking and its connection to everyday life through ceramics, sculpture and animation.

Honouring the Boyd family legacy, *Fantastic Forms* brings new commissions by three contemporary Australian artists, **Nabilah Nordin**, **Stephen Benwell** and **Rubyrose Bancroft**, into conversation with Bundanon's expansive collection of drawings by artist **William Merric Boyd** (1888 –1959), Arthur Boyd's father.

Sophie O'Brien stated that: "*this substantial presentation of Merric Boyd drawings represents both Merric's commitment to a deeply creative life, and his son Arthur's continuation of this, in his own work and in his support of other artists*".

The Merric Boyd artworks included in the exhibition were accumulated by Arthur Boyd over a period of years. This will be the first comprehensive showing of Merric Boyd's works all drawn from the Bundanon Collection.

Rachel Kent, CEO said: "*We are delighted to honour Arthur Boyd's vision in presenting this exhibition of his father's work alongside new commissions by three contemporary artists at different career points. This dialogue was incredibly important to Boyd as was his desire to connect living artists with audiences*".

Fantastic Forms expands on **Merric Boyd's** idiosyncratic approach to pottery, the dynamic life force within his drawing practice, and the spirituality that underscored his life and work. Taking a vast selection of his drawings and ceramics as its starting point and bringing them into dialogue with new works by **Nordin**, **Benwell** and

Bancroft, it explores the endless creativity of the human imagination; and the profound connection between the Boyd legacy and the work of artists practicing today.

For *Fantastic Forms* Singaporean/Australian sculptor **Nabilah Nordin** creates three new large-scale bronze sculptures building on her practice of playfully championing the visceral and anthropomorphic qualities of materials, alongside a conscious unlearning of traditional techniques. **Stephen Benwell**, one of Australia's most distinguished ceramicists with a career spanning four decades, presents a series of fragmented ceramic figures subtly illustrating forlorn images of the male nude that challenge classical traditions of beauty and masculinity; and emerging Bundjalung artist **Rubyrose Bancroft** showcases her recent mythical claymation videos.

The opening Weekend, Saturday 1-Sunday 2 April 2023 will present Public Programs celebrating Bundanon's 30th anniversary.

FULL PROGRAM HERE

AVAILABLE IMAGES [HERE](#)

Ends

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ABOUT BUNDANON: Established in 1993, Bundanon was gifted to the Australian people by Arthur and Yvonne Boyd, representing one of the most significant acts of philanthropy in the history of the arts in Australia. Bundanon is located on 1,000 hectares of bush and parkland overlooking the Shoalhaven River, on the South Coast of New South Wales, two and a half hours from Sydney.

Bundanon's mission is to operate the property as a centre for creative arts and education, for scientific research and a place to explore landscape and engage with First Nations history and culture. Bundanon's residency program for visual artists, writers, musicians, dancers, performers and scholars, and its learning programs, are an investment in Australia's future. Bundanon is supported by the Australian Government through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications' Office for the Arts, Create NSW, the University of Wollongong, Landcare Australia, and a range of other foundation, bequest, and philanthropic contributions. The Collection features some 1,448 works by Arthur Boyd together with Boyd's contemporaries such as Sidney Nolan, John Perceval, Joy Hester and Charles Blackman. In addition, Bundanon has an archive of artist books, scripts, compositions and working models related to artwork developed on the properties through the Artist in Residence program.

This program is supported by the NSW Government through Destination NSW.

For more information visit www.bundanon.com.au

WILLIAM MERRIC BOYD

Born in Melbourne in 1888, the second child of artists Emma Minnie and Arthur Merric Boyd, Merric Boyd is considered to be Australia's first studio potter, at a time when studio pottery was not popular or widely known. His style was distinctive and sculptural, and his use of native flora and fauna and rural subjects as decorative motifs was unique. In 1913 Boyd's parents bought him the property Open Country at Murrumbidgee, Victoria, where he built a house and pottery studio. He studied for one term at the National Gallery of Victoria School in 1910. After World War I, before being repatriated back to Australia, he studied the technical aspects of

pottery at the Wedgwood factory at Stoke-on-Trent, England. Merric struggled with epilepsy throughout his life, a condition which was largely misunderstood at the time, having a huge impact on himself and his family. In the last decade before his death in 1959, he gave himself entirely to drawing, producing thousands of works on paper reflecting a life that was dominated by a strong sense of family, religion and creative endeavour.

NABILAH NORDIN

Singaporean/Australian sculptor Nabilah Nordin completed a Master of Contemporary Art at Victorian College of the Arts in 2015, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts at RMIT University in 2013. Nordin's solo exhibitions include Corinthian Clump, 'The National' at Art Gallery of NSW (2023, forthcoming); Melbourne Now, 2023 (forthcoming); Prop Shop, Neon Parc, 2022; Art Cologne, 2022; Birdbrush and Other Essentials, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 2021; Covergirl Adhesives, COMA Gallery, Sydney, 2020 and An Obstacle in Every Direction, Singapore Biennale, Singapore, 2019. Group shows include No False Idols, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, 2022; A thousand different angles, McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery, Melbourne, 2022; SIMMER, Murray Art Museum Albury, Albury 2021; Salient Features, Changwon Sculpture Biennale, South Korea, 2020; 1991, Neon Parc Brunswick, Melbourne, 2020 and Those Monuments Don't Know Us, Bundoora Homestead Art Centre, Melbourne, 2019.

STEPHEN BENWELL

Melbourne-based artist Stephen Benwell is amongst Australia's most distinguished ceramicists. In 2013 Benwell's work was included in Melbourne Now at the National Gallery of Victoria and a major retrospective survey of his work was held at Heide Museum of Modern Art. Benwell has been the recipient of the Sidney Myer Fund Australian Ceramic Award, has been a finalist in the Hobart Art Prize, the Fletcher Jones Art Prize and in 2009 was awarded the Inaugural Deakin University Small Sculpture Award and an Australia Council Visual Arts Board New Work Grant. Benwell's work is regularly exhibited in Australia and overseas and is held in a large number of private and public collections including the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, the National Gallery of Australia, The National Gallery of Victoria, The Art Gallery of South Australia and The Art Gallery of Western Australia.

RUBYROSE BANCROFT

Rubyrose Bancroft is a Bundjalung artist from Northern New South Wales. At the age of 16, she was a finalist in the Blacktown City Art Prize 2015. She was featured in Time Out Magazine's 2016 Forty under 40 article, identifying young people of influence. Bancroft completed her Bachelor of Fine Art (ceramics) at the National Art School in 2020, where her Major Work 'The 7 Deadly Sins' was acquired.