

Living with Art

Selected art and acquisitions by Margaret and Tony Tuckson
Saturday 22 March – Saturday 3 May 2014

Margaret Tuckson is a North Shore legend and a great advocate and champion of the arts. She grew up in Warrawee and attended Abbotsleigh in Wahroonga. Margaret's enthusiasm for art led her to study at the East Sydney Technical College at Darlinghurst and to become a popular pottery teacher at the beautiful Wahroonga home she shared with husband Tony Tuckson and son Michael. Tony also studied art at East Sydney Tech and in 1950 became the Assistant then Deputy Director of the Art Gallery of NSW and later a celebrated painter.

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery at Abbotsleigh presents a new exhibition revealing selected art and artworks that have surrounded this creative family. Since Tony's death in 1973, Margaret has been a positive force in ensuring his work is recognised for his unique contribution to abstraction in Australia. Margaret has also secured a notable place in the Australian artworld as an admired potter and co-author of an inspiring book documenting the pottery styles of Papua New Guinea. In 2004 she was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia for her service to the arts through the promotion of abstract expressionist art and through research into and collection of indigenous art, including the ceramic art of Papua New Guinea.

To visit Margaret Tuckson is to discover the extent that art can be embedded into a person's very existence. Margaret has surrounded herself with her own pottery, her husband Tony's artworks and the eclectic assortment of earthenware and stoneware pots, paintings, drawings, sculptures, masks and photographs that Margaret and Tony amassed for their own pleasure. *Living with Art* adds up to a surprisingly winning portrait of the Tuckson family viewed through a few of Margaret's favourite things.

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery is a not-for-profit project run by Abbotsleigh and serves the public through free admission and an education program. The Gallery is open Monday to Saturday from 10 am-5pm. Enter via Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway Wahroonga.

Available for interview:

Mary Faith, Director, Grace Cossington Smith Gallery: 9473 7878