



ALAN BAKER

ART GALLERY



FEATURING THE

ALAN BAKER COLLECTION

'A COLOURFUL PORTRAYAL OF AN ARTIST'S LIFE IN 20TH CENTURY AUSTRALIA'







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ALAN DOUGLAS BAKER

1914 - 1987

A legacy for the people of Macarthur, this beautiful collection of works provides a glimpse of life in 20th century Australia captured by the world class fine artist Alan D. Baker.

The collection tells a story of life, Australian tradition, culture and the artistic journey of the artist. The contemplative works evoke emotion as they reveal their stories of love, family, community, war, beauty, darkness and tragedy; each capturing history.

Few collections worldwide embrace the complete life of the artist, family and their place within the community. Here, Baker reveals the people and places of Macarthur, the role he played in developing an arts network in Camden and his influence over many artists who inspired by Baker started their own careers and practice till this day.

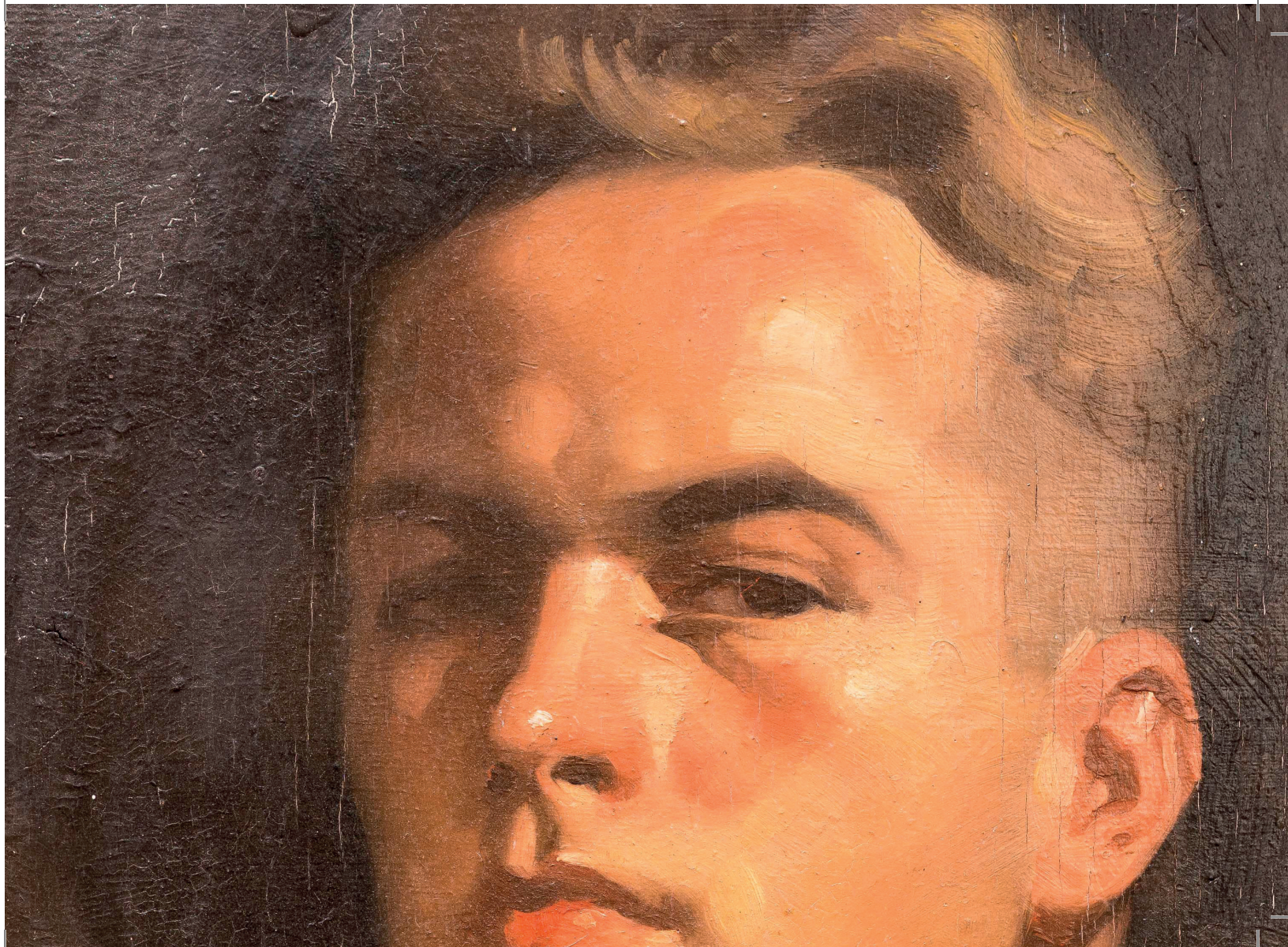
The works displayed capture 60 years of the artist's journey. The portraits of himself, his wife, children and father are incredible, his land and seascapes reflect truth in their honest representation, and the depth and rare beauty of his floral and still life work sets Baker apart from others.

Many of Baker's commercial works are hung in the Tooth and Co exhibition in the Powerhouse museum. The collection has examples of the early commercial art using the last old colour printing techniques. These works are historical. They reflect society of the day, lifestyle and aspirations of the 1950's.

Both Alan and his wife Marjorie experienced the great depression of the 30s as teenagers, war, the rebuilding of life after war as a young couple, the ultimate family tragedy with the loss of their two sons and the hope and prosperity of the late 20th century as they worked diligently together to capture their passion. A passion that drove Baker to achieve artistic expression that brought magnificent and beautiful art to life and posterity.

Art was a haven from which the memories came; a place that enabled him to reflect and create beauty in paint. His collection is offered as a reflection of the lives of all who lived during these times.

Gary Baker



THE GALLERY VISION TO INCEPTION

Council's vision for making Camden's heritage accessible to the community has been brought to life through the Art Gallery at *Macaria* featuring works of renowned artist Alan Baker.

Macarthur region residents Gary and Melissa Baker, together with Max and Nola Tegel have made available 79 drawings and paintings that depict a window into Alan Baker's work. The collection of works represent a colourful portrayal of an artist's life in 20th Century Australia.

This creative vision was made a reality by Camden Council, which showed its support and commitment to the promotion of arts in the region, by investing in and restoring historical *Macaria* as Camden's revitalised home of the arts for our community.

In future years, the gallery also has the ability to grow, exhibit and promote art from all generations. The restoration of *Macaria* is part of Council's strategy to invest in the historical Camden Town Centre and create a landmark tourist attraction for residents and visitors to enjoy. *Macaria* will now be open to the public for the first time in many decades.

Lara Symkowiak

Mayor of Camden

ALAN BAKER *An artists life*



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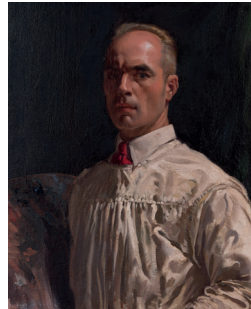
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1. Self Portrait 1950
2. Amber Bowl Japonica
3. Fox Ground, South Coast
4. Kakula Kila c1944
5. Portrait 2
6. On the Beach
7. The Fair Haired Girl in the Red Pullover c1970
8. Razorback Landscape
9. Life Drawing c1930
10. Landscape at Mowbray Park
11. The Track
12. Hickson Street, Sydney

The Alan Baker Exhibition is a tribute and celebration of a traditionalist whose work captured the beauty that surrounded him.

Featured is Baker's self-portrait painted at the height of his career, c1950. Hung alongside, a collection of works that capture Baker's mastering of numerous genres including portraiture, still life, landscape, seascape, life drawing and life painting created throughout his career.

EARLY ARTWORKS – 1929-61



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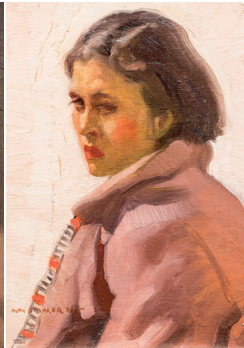
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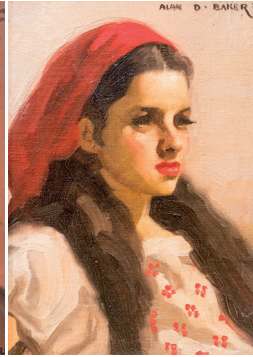
- 13. Juiso c1935
- 14. Monday c1947
- 15. Rita Lee
- 16. Standing Nude c1930
- 17. Self Portrait 1935
- 18. Portrait 1

Works of this era represent Bakers artistic development in the 32 years prior to residing in Macarthur. During this period he completed art school, began work as an art tutor, served Australia in WWII, married Marjorie with whom he celebrated the birth of his three sons, faced family tragedy, embarked on a flourishing commercial art career and earned his reputation as a sought after portrait painter.

EARLY ARTWORKS – 1929-61



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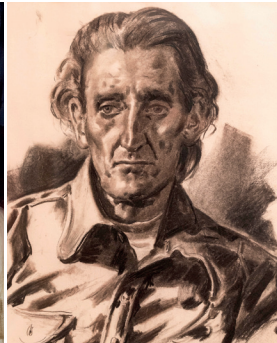
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- 19. Native Girl c1944
- 20. Girl with Shawl
- 21. White Azaleas
- 22. Fishing From Wharf (Milperra) c1955
- 23. The Chinese Hat
- 24. Portrait of Young Man c1944

PORTRAITURE



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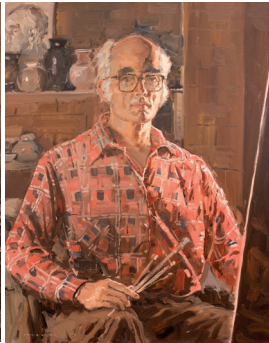
- 25. Lady Alice Langker
- 26. The Lean Australian
- 27. Boy in a Raincoat
- 28. Sheaf Stout
- 29. Henry Baker c1930

Baker as a portrait painter was known for his ability to capture the personality and life of his subjects on a one dimensional surface. The room features Baker's last self-portrait, the portrait of his artist wife Marjorie 'Lady In Pink', the heartbreaking image of his son Brian 'Boy in a Raincoat', a portrait of his youngest son 'Gary' and that of his beloved father 'Henry Baker'.

PORTRAITURE



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- 30. Lady in Pink (Marjorie)
- 31. Self Portrait c1985
- 32. Portrait of a Young Girl
- 33. Self Portrait
- 34. Gary c1976
- 35. Camden Art Group Sketch

Throughout the 1970's and 1980's Baker played an influential role in the establishment of the Camden Art Group, assisting to activate an arts movement in Camden. The small group meeting at Camden Public School was free for anyone to attend. It was at these meetings that Alan imparted his artistic knowledge by demonstrating his techniques. The group of like-minded friends, who were very serious about their art, began sketching and painting. Alan, with his distinct technique influenced and transformed the lives of his students, many later becoming recognised artists in their own right.

LANDSCAPE | SEASCAPE



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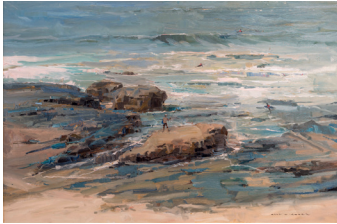
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- 36. Autumn Rainsford Creek Taraga
- 37. The Oaks Petrol Station
- 38. The Oaks Council Chambers
- 39. Autumn
- 40. Thirlmere Trains c1970
- 41. Menangle c1975
- 42. Summer Landscape
- 43. Paper Bark Trees Werombi c1980
- 44. The Struggle for Survival c1980
- 45. Sunshine and Shade

LANDSCAPE | SEASCAPE



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- 46. Fishing
- 47. Yamba Bay
- 48. The Morning Tide Gerroa
- 49. Headland Gerroa c1980
- 50. Longreach Homestead c1970
- 51. Flinders Rangers SA c1970
- 52. Gum Trees Picton c1970
- 53. Cawdor

Baker displays a profound commitment to the natural and man-made environment, reflecting history, and capturing Australian landscape and seascape in its truest form. A lover of plein air painting, Baker would take his masonite board painstakingly sealed, and stippled with white lead paint to create the perfect textured finish in readiness for his vigorous work. He would choose his location, battle the elements and sit to paint, his torso remaining extremely active as the fluid energy of his work flowed. He would paint until his work was complete ready to exhibit.

STILL LIFE



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- 54. Yellow Daisies
- 55. Yellow and White Chrysanthemums
- 56. Pansies
- 57. Yellow Daisies
- 58. Wattle
- 59. Red Roses in Brown Vase

- 60. Peach Blossom
- 61. Petunias
- 62. Contessa Callini
- 63. Red Roses
- 64. Cecil Brunner Roses
- 65. Cecil Brunner Roses

- 66. Almond Blossom
- 67. White Roses in a Chinese Bowl
- 68. White Cosmo
- 69. White Chrysanthemums
- 70. White Gordonias
- 71. White Petunias

STILL LIFE /LIFE PAINTING



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- 72. Perennial Phlox
- 73. Pink Stocks
- 74. Wild Camellias
- 75. Gladiolas
- 76. Repose (Marjorie)
- 77. Camellia Alba Plena
- 78. Nude
- 79. Contessa Callini Camellias

'An artist must arrange his own composition by any means at all to be sure that there is balance and a flowing swing to the painting. The value of the shadow being thrown from one flower to the other, the attention to colour harmony, the balance of vase to flowers, I spend hours arranging till I am satisfied the result will be successful.'

Alan Baker

WE INVITE YOU TO CAPTURE THE STILL LIFE DISPLAYED. YOUR ARTWORK WILL BE RETAINED TO BECOME PART OF THE GALLERY VISITOR COLLECTION.

ALAN BAKER COLLECTION | 17

THE HISTORY OF MACARIA

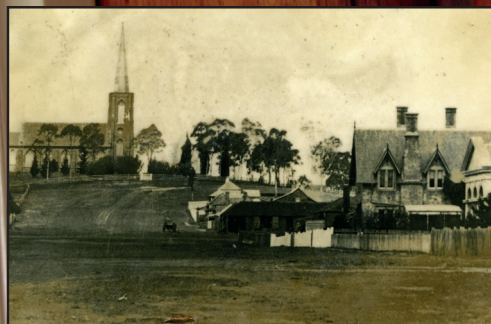
The township of Camden was established in the 1840s by James and William Macarthur. Henry Thompson built *Macaria* in 1859-60 for the purpose of a school. Henry Thompson and his brother Samuel came to Camden as independent investors, setting up a general store and steam flour mill.

Macaria has been used as a private home; the Camden Grammar School; and as a residence and practice of doctors, including the popular Dr West from 1901 to 1932. In 1965 it was bought by Camden Council and was used as Camden Library and offices for the Mayor, Town Clerk and staff.

Macaria has gabled windows, high chimneys, and stone trims with wooden porch and verandah. It is a fine early townhouse of distinctive and interesting architectural quality, associated with important figures of the town's early years. For a house of its scale, it is among the best picturesque Gothic houses in Australia. This, when combined with its importance to Camden, makes it a building of great significance.

Camden Historical Society, 2017







MACARIA

The exhibition invites you to embark on a journey, travel through the historical majesty of Macaria's architecture of 9ft ceilings, timber fretwork, oregon flooring, mahogany skirting, Australian cedar architraves and staircase to explore the great works of an Australian artist who captured 20th century life from an artist perspective.









ALAN BAKER

ART GALLERY

Macaria 37 John Street, Camden NSW 2570 | 02 4645 5191
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OPENING TIMES

Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
11am - 4pm

*Cover photograph by William Macarthur c 1874 care of Camden Park
Artwork photography by Brett Atkins.*