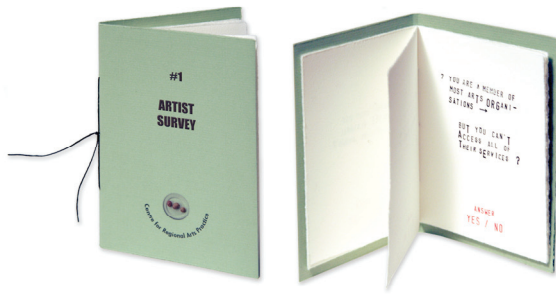


SITE: **BUNDANON**

THE BOOKS

COOPER+SPOWART

Published by
Photographers of the Great Divide



#1 Artist Survey

Published by the *Centre for Regional Arts Practice* (a fictitious organisation), this stamp book deals with the question of “Does where you live influence your arts practice?”

Readers are taken through a series of humorous questions and statements to establish the regionality of their practice. The book provides a comment on the regional artist and issues of regional practise.

COLLECTIONS:

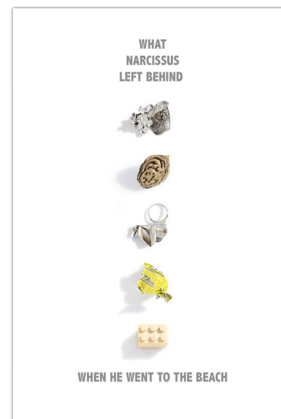
- 2007 **Bundanon Trust**, Bundanon, New South Wales
- 2008 **State Library of Queensland**
- Numerous private collections

EXHIBITIONS + INSTALLATIONS:

- 2007 **Artists' Book + Multiple Fair**, Brisbane
- Interior through an open door, Bundanon**
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery
- 2009 **Installation SITE: Bundanon**
Bundanon, Nowra, New South Wales

BOOK DESCRIPTION:

Edition of **TWENTY-FIVE + 5 proofs** [only 5 copies remain]
Codex
Twelve pages plus cover and colophon
15 x 10.2 x 0.5 cm
Ink on Hahnemühle book paper, Fabriano cover
Hand-set stamp text
Hand stitched by the artists



What Narcissus left behind when he went to the beach

EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK'S FORWARD

What would Arthur Boyd think of today's uninvited visitors to his private beach on the Shoalhaven River? In the 1980s Boyd depicted the water skiers and sunbathers as lobster-red, flippered, sun worshipping figures. He described their activities as “hedonistic” and considered that they were, “the enemies of nature — those in our society with no regard for the balance of nature and for the future of the planet”.

When I visited Boyd's Pulpit Rock beach the bathers were gone but here and there, in this most beautiful of natural settings, was the debris of recent visitors. I felt compelled to collect these items of junk for removal, and on each visit to the beach I took away the litter of the *selfless ravishers* of this place.

Boyd and his poet collaborator Peter Porter repackaged the mythical Narcissus as a sophistic segment of modern society. For me it seemed that this modern Narcissus had been visiting and had left behind the detritus of the good times had on the beach. This collection is then at once a survey of beachgoer's rubbish and a comment on contemporary society's excessive consumerism.

EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

- 2007 **Interior through an open door, Bundanon**
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery
- 2009 **Installation SITE: Bundanon**
Bundanon, Nowra, New South Wales

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Concertina Book
Twenty-eight pages including cover and colophon
20.0 x 14 x 2.5 cm
Pigment inks on watercolour paper
Acrylic slip case and binding by the artist



Narcissus meets himself on the road to Bundanon

Essentially a flipbook is an animation sequence – one in which minute differences in each image page enable a simple story to be created. Most flipbooks only have 30–40 pages which tends to be the physical limit for the design to function. As each flip-story is conveyed in a few seconds, many flipbooks employ simple line, stick figures or shapes, however it is well suited to photography. I employed sequential shooting in this work. The device of the unexpected ending is utilised to reward the viewer for their connection with the work.

The idea of the book is to portray the myth of Narcissus that fascinated Arthur Boyd and poet Peter Porter. There are many forms of the Narcissus story. This one deals with a version of the myth in which Narcissus, being so infatuated with his image, is destroyed by seeing himself. The story is enacted on the road down to the Bundanon Homestead and the photographer is not only the originator and choreographer of the work but also plays both Narcissus roles.

COLLECTIONS:

2010 **State Library of Queensland**

EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

2007 ***Interior through an open door, Bundanon***
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

2009 ***Installation SITE: Bundanon***
Bundanon, Nowra, New South Wales

BOOK DESCRIPTION:

Flip-Book
Forty-eight pages
9.3 x 21.0 x 1 cm
Pigment inks on archival paper
Japanese stab binding by the artist



Transforming the view

Variant: Improbable Journey

This book is about the representation of a journey along a track. The flat plane of the book page has been distorted by transforming the traveller's [reader's] view through its concertina folding and therefore affording many ways of viewing and interpreting the work.

Sign posts at each end of the book allude to the point of departure and the destination. The book, when viewed from the oblique left shows only the forward journey - the oblique view from the right shows the return journey. When viewed from the front diamond-shaped designs subvert the reality of the roadway. The view seen evokes a feeling of the road ahead and the road behind simultaneously.

COLLECTIONS:

2007 **State Library of Queensland** (variant)

2009 **National Library of Australia**

EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

2007 ***Books 07***, Noosa Regional Gallery

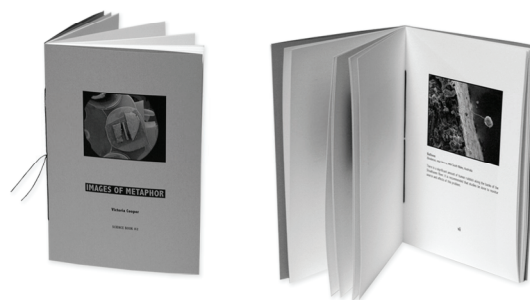
2007 ***Interior through an open door, Bundanon***
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

2009 ***Installation SITE: Bundanon***
Bundanon, Nowra, New South Wales

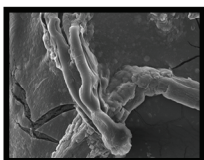
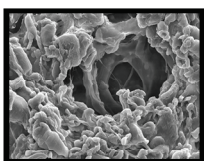
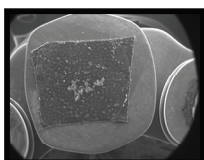
BOOK DESCRIPTION:

Concertina Book
Twenty-two pages including cover and colophon
18 x 15 x 2 cm extending to 250 cm
Pigment inks on watercolour paper
Handmade watercolour paper enclosure

SITE: BUNDANON



Images of Metaphor



A collection of decomposing leaf litter was made at a site in the shallow waters along the Shoalhaven River's shoreline at Arthur Boyd's Bundanon.

A different destiny now lay ahead for these fragments of decaying matter . . .

Can Science reveal any insights into the mythical nature of this historic site?

This book forms part of ongoing research on the interpretation in our everyday lives of visual information generated through science and art. Two other books, *The House* and *The River*, link with *Images of Metaphor* to form a series of three interconnected works.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Electron Microscope Unit,
Australian National University, Canberra

Drs Malcolm Ryley and Gary Kong, Plant Pathologists,
Department of Primary Industries, Queensland

COLLECTIONS:

2009 **National Library of Australia**

EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS: (First Printing)

2007 **Books 07**, Noosa Regional Art Gallery, Queensland

2007 **Interior through an open door**
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Queensland

2009 **Installation Shoalhaven River**, Bundanon

BOOK DESCRIPTION:

Codex

14 pages

21 x 15 x 1 cm

Pigment inks on archival paper

Hand stitched pamphlet book



The House

This book is a visual story of a site specific nature, born from the Shoalhaven River at Arthur Boyd's Bundanon.

The work was inspired by and refers to Arthur Boyd's interpretations of classical and spiritual themes in his art. In this site the connections of myth, history and the physical structures were overlayed with microscopic images of Shoalhaven river water. The resulting hybrid infers a presence of water and place that questions the boundaries of knowledge and reason.

This book forms part of a metaphorical intervention with the site; its history, culture and natural landscape and connections with water. Two other books, *Images of Metaphor* and *The River*, with *The House* form a series of three inter-connected works.

COLLECTIONS:

2009 **National Library of Australia**

EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

2007 ***Interior through an open door, Bundanon***
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

2009 ***Installation SITE: Bundanon***
Bundanon, Nowra, New South Wales.

BOOK DESCRIPTION:

Codex
20 pages
33.2 x 46.0 x 1.0 cm
Pigment inks on 100% cotton paper
Hand stitched by the artist



The River

A continuation of the visual story of a site specific nature, born from the Shoalhaven River at Arthur Boyd's Bundanon.

The narrative of *The River* was inspired by and refers to Arthur Boyd's interpretations of the classical theme and story of *Narcissus* and places it within the contemporary context of water. This work also continues with the investigation of the boundaries between the science, art and myth.

This book forms part of a metaphorical intervention with the site; its history, culture and natural landscape and connections with water. Two other books, *Images of Metaphor* and *The House* combine with *The River* to form a series of three inter-connected works.

COLLECTIONS:

2009 **National Library of Australia**
Bundanon Trust Collection

EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

2007 ***Interior through an open door, Bundanon***
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

2009 ***Installation SITE: Bundanon***

BOOK DESCRIPTION:

Codex
18 pages
33.2 x 46.0 x 1.0 cm
Pigment inks on 100% cotton paper
Hand stitched by the artist



Camera Obscura SMQ

For some time Spowart and Cooper have converted many spaces and have documented the camera obscura phenomenon. Through this research they have discovered how the camera obscura can inform their position in space by the contemplation of the everyday and its meaning in the context of the broader rhythm of life.

The Single Men's Quarters at Bundanon was well situated to observe the ideas of the Artist in landscape. The window chosen for the Camera's opening overlooked the Bundanon residence and the complex of buildings that were Boyd's workspace. The use of a painter's easel to hold the screen for the camera obscura image refers to the historical nature of this place and painting. There is also a historical connection with this structure that continues the dialogue presented in the Camera Obscura:

'The singleman's hut . . . provided overnight accommodation for farm and station staff. The hut's isolation demonstrates the social distancing that occurred in nineteenth century society. At one time an Aboriginal man lived in this hut and worked on the property. He told stories to the McKenzie children and taught them how to draw and paint.'

<http://www.bundanon.com.au/content/bundanon-property-and-homestead>

EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

2007 **Interior through an open door, Bundanon**
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

2009 **Installation SITE: Bundanon**
Bundanon, Nowra, New South Wales.

BOOK DESCRIPTION:

Codex, 24 pages
29.7 x 21.0 x 0.5 cm
Pigment inks on 100% cotton paper
black card insert
Binding by Doug Spowart



Projections

One aspect of the collaborative work undertaken during the residency was to project carefully selected images relative to the natural and human history of the area onto buildings on the Bundanon property. The resulting blended image, which is then documented, embodies a rich overlay of histories evoking connections between the artist and his environment. For Spowart and Cooper the charged communicative power of this visual construct is far greater than the two individual visual elements.

During our connection with Bundanon, and through the research on Arthur Boyd, we found resonance with these classical themes. In our Projection series we reference Peter Porter's poem, *DIES IRAE*, in the book, *Mars* as informing the creation of many works in this series.

*Now the life of every creature
Shall appear on God's computer,
Terror shall be each one's future.*

COLLECTIONS:

2010 **National Library of Australia**

EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

2007 **Interior through an open door, Bundanon**
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

2008 **Photo & Imaging Exhibition**
Brisbane Exhibition Centre

2009 **Installation SITE: Bundanon**
Bundanon, near Nowra, New South Wales

BOOK DESCRIPTION:

SINGLE SHEETS
14 pages
48.3 x 32.9 cm
Pigment inks on archival paper



Girl's Own Adventure

Girls Own Adventure is not only a document of the experience of the visitor and just about everyone who is an artists in residence at Bundanon, but also a visual record of the surrounds of the property and places of interest.

FROM THE BOOK'S FORWARD:

Our Victoria enjoys a personal encounter in the pastoral and natural landscape of her Uncle Arthur's farm on a big river – the Shoalhaven.

Here, a city girl encounters new challenges and resolves each with the aplomb of a seasoned traveller. She signals her achievement by the arms outstretched salute we normally see in gold medal winning Olympic gymnasts.

Finding way to the river or a bowerbird's bower, fording a stream and climbing a mountain are presented as small chapters in this personal visual diary of a visit to Bundanon farm.

Let's follow Victoria and witness her connection with the land and her joy of each adventure encountered.

EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

2007 ***Interior through an open door, Bundanon***
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

2009 ***Installation SITE: Bundanon,***
Bundanon, near Nowra, New South Wales

BOOK DESCRIPTION:

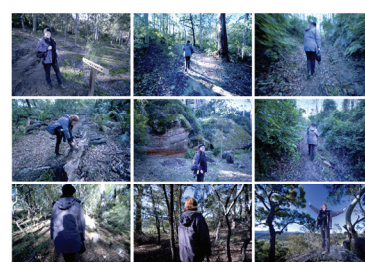
Codex

14 pages

33.2 x 46.0 x 1.0 cm

Pigment inks on 100% cotton

Hand stitched by the artist



SITE:
BUNDANON

SITE: BUNDANON



The Island



Pages from The Island book rephotographed in the site of their inspiration

‘The Island’ is a place frequented by artists as explorers and rock sculpture engineers and animals. This place has evidence of all forms of habitation. The weeds and discarded rubbish of human intervention invades the natural space.

Amongst the chaotic patterning of natural rock arrangements are the new and ruins of older sculptural constructions. In and around these objects are numerous footprints of all forms of life, from wombat to lizard to human to bird.

In reading this landscape many questions arise, some requiring answers while others remain unanswerable just at the edge of reason.

EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

2007 ***Interior through an open door, Bundanon***
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

2009 ***Installation SITE: Bundanon***
Bundanon, Nowra, New South Wales.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Codex

14 pages

33.0 x 48.0 x 1.0 cm

Pigment inks on 100% cotton

Hand stitched by Doug Spowart



The Flood

The Shoalhaven River has a long history of floods which redefine the landscape and the human occupation within that region. Whilst in residence in June and July of 2007, there were a series of significant storms and rain events leading to very high river levels and treacherous river flows.

After each event the river returned, always a little different, to relatively normal state as it had done for eons in its geological life.

This book looks at how everyday human experience echoes these natural rhythms of water. Found materials from 'The Island' and around the Shoalhaven River banks were utilized to create multi-layered photograms on cyanotype coated paper made 'on-site' at Bundanon during periods of calmer sunny weather. The hand set type words were also stamped during this residency period. Only two unique state books were able to be constructed.

EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

- 2007 ***Interior through an open door, Bundanon***
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery
- 2009 ***Installation of SITE: Bundanon***
Bundanon, Nowra New South Wales

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Concertina
26 pages
10.0 x 15.0 x 3.0 cm extending to 390 cm
Cyanotype on watercolour paper
Hand set stamp text
Binding by Doug Spowart



I have inhabited a place . . .

This book comments on the photographer's approach to encountering the subject of their interest and how they go about documenting with a camera.

Its subject matter is the paint dribbles and edges left behind by artists as they make their 'real' works. The book features images of walls, tables, easels and floors of the Bundanon artist's studios.

A text by the photographer provides a narrative to the special nature of the subject, the process and the book as a communication for ideas.

COLLECTIONS:

- 2010 **State Library of Queensland**
- 2009 **Bundanon Trust Collection**

MAJOR AWARD:

- 2008 **RUNNER-UP**
2008 AIPP Australian Photographic Book Award

EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

- 2007 ***Interior through an open door, Bundanon***
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery
- 2009 ***Installation SITE: Bundanon***
Bundanon, Nowra, New South Wales

BOOK DESCRIPTION:

Codex
20 pages
33.2 x 46.0 x 1.0 cm
Pigment inks on 100% cotton
Hand stitched by the artist



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