MEDIA RELEASE
For immediate release: Thursday 28 April 2011

Flinders University City Gallery presents White gums and ramoxes

White Gums and Ramoxes: Ceramics by Merric and Arthur Boyd from the Bundanon Trust Collection is a national travelling exhibition poised to be launched in Adelaide.

Bundanon Trust, a federally funded arts institution, holds the country’s most significant collection of Merric Boyd ceramics and drawings, largely due to Arthur Boyd’s efforts to acquire and collect his father’s and other family members’ works for eventual display at the Bundanon homestead on the Shoalhaven River, NSW.

Arthur’s father, Merric Boyd was one of Australia’s first commercially successful artisan potters. In the family home, Open Country, in Murrumbeena, Victoria, Arthur grew up with a potters’ studio in the back yard and artists around the family table. Merric himself was the son of successful artists Arthur Merric and Emma Minnie Boyd who purchased land for Merric to build a home and studio.

This exhibition, curated by Grace Cochrane, former head of decorative arts at the Powerhouse Museum, focuses on how Arthur responded artistically to his father and his father’s work. The white gums refer to the white gums of the surrounding Victorian countryside, Merric being one of the first potters to incorporate Australian motifs in pottery. Ramoxes were a mythical invention of Arthur’s which frequently symbolise a voyeuristic presence, sometimes menacing, sometimes protective.

The 114 works in the exhibition include ceramics and drawings by Merric Boyd, and ceramics, etchings and paintings by Arthur Boyd many relating to his father, particularly those from the ‘potter series’.

“Merric was prolific, and had a creative obsession, a passion, which Arthur was influenced by and carried into his own work” - Jennifer Thompson, Collections and Exhibitions Manager, Bundanon Trust.

Exhibition opening 6-8pm, Friday 13 May 2011
Opening speaker Robert Reason, Curator of European & Australian Decorative Arts, Art Gallery of South Australia
Floortalk 2pm, Saturday 14 May 2011
Exhibition dates 14 May - 3 July 2011
Location Flinders University City Gallery
State Library of South Australia, North Terrace, Adelaide
Phone 08 8207 7055 , Email city.gallery@flinders.edu.au

Media information and photographs contact Rachael Austin, Marketing and Communications Officer, Bundanon Trust, on (02) 4422 2103 or rachael@bundanon.com.au

Visions of Australia is an Australian Government program supporting touring exhibitions by providing funding assistance for the development and touring of Australian cultural material across Australia.

Image: Merric Boyd, Figure of Arthur Boyd aged three years, 1923, hand-formed earthenware, 15.2 cm high

Bundanon Trust is Arthur and Yvonne Boyd’s Gift to the Australian People. It supports arts practice and understanding of the arts through its residency, education, exhibition and performance programs. Bundanon also preserves the natural and cultural heritage of its 1100 hectare site on the Shoalhaven River. www.bundanon.com.au
Flinders University Art Museum is a cultural facility that collects, documents and promotes engagement with visual art and craft. Through the City Gallery it presents exhibitions and public programs that aim to stimulate, enliven and enrich the communities it serves. www.flinders.edu.au/artmuseum