2013 olive cotton award for photographic portraiture

9 August – 29 September 2013
2013 olive cotton award
for photographic portraiture

In 2005 Tweed River Art Gallery launched the Olive Cotton Award for photographic portraiture, funded by Olive Cotton’s family and dedicated to her memory as one of Australia’s leading twentieth century photographers.

The Award has grown and gained national recognition attracting entries from well-known and emerging photographers across Australia. Until 2009 the Award offered a $10,000 annual acquisitive prize.

The Olive Cotton Award now boasts a major acquisitive biennial prize of $20,000, selected by the Award judge. In addition, the Friends of the Tweed River Art Gallery Inc fund $4,000 for the acquisition of portraits from the exhibition entries to be chosen by the Gallery Director. Visitors to the exhibition may also vote for their “people’s choice” which awards $250 for to the most popular finalist.

This exhibition of finalists has been selected by the photography curator, historian and writer, Helen Ennis. From 381 entries Helen has selected an intriguing exhibition of 91 finalists covering themes of youth, marriage, play, identity and death.

The Gallery thanks art dealer Josef Lebovic and photographer Sally McInerney, Olive Cotton’s daughter, for their ongoing support of the Award. We are also indebted to the Friends of the Gallery committee for their contributions, both financial and practical, to the Award and to Gallery events.

Complementing the 2013 Award is the ABC Open digital exhibition 100 Faces, the best of ABC Open’s Snapped: Faces. This is a small selection from over 1000 portraits, captured by amateur and professional photographers throughout regional Australia, for the ABC Open June photography challenge SNAPPED: FACES. The Gallery thanks ABC Open for their support of the Olive Cotton Award and their contribution to our Public Program through workshops and digital exhibitions.

What have we here? Portraits from all over Australia by photographers of all ages and inclinations, by professional photographers and artists, and by others who might not see themselves as photographers but who love photography. On the face of it there are only a few common threads, portraiture being one and the recent date of the portrait being another. This award after all is admirably open-ended with the only restrictions being that the portrait has been completed since 1 May 2011 and that it has not been previously exhibited.

And yet what has emerged is surprisingly coherent. First, there is a compelling group of portraits that relate to the human life cycle, beginning with a double portrait taken in pregnancy, spanning babyhood, childhood, adulthood, ageing, death and beyond. I think of the portraits in this group as having two roles at least: providing an image of an individual and accounting for the passing of time. These life stage portraits are notably not only of individuals but also of couples and groups, asserting the complexity of the familial and social relations which involve us all.

There is also a clear theme about gender and the ongoing process of redefining traditional male and female roles and stereotypes. Male subjects are represented as workers, housekeepers, partners and much more. Women, older women in particular, are shown to be self-confident and strong.

Another well-formed group comprises theatrical portraits, constructed in the studio or on computer to create sometimes fantastical images in which colour is heightened and naturalism downplayed.

There are some well-known subjects, drawn from different aspects of Australian cultural life. However, fame of itself is not relevant here. The potency of the portraits in the 2013 Award relates to their narrative potential – what they say about a person, about society and about our times.

Helen Ennis
Associate Head, ANU School of Art
2013 Award Judge
2. Michelle Abroad
Sydney NSW
Cate Blanchett 2013
digital print

3. Belinda Allen
Bundaberg NSW
Dear departed - my sister Kate 2013
pigment inkjet print on cotton rag paper

4. Melissa Anderson
Cleveland QLD
Golden anniversary 2012
archival pigment print

5. Daniel Arnaldi
Sydney NSW
Tatau the butcher 2013
digital print

6. Narelle Auto
Adelaide SA
Dash and the spectrum 2013
pigment print on cotton rag paper from film
Courtesy of Silk Gallery, Sydney NSW and Hugo Michell
Gallery, Adelaide SA

7. Lyn Balzer and Anthony Perkins
Sydney NSW
Jenny 66a - at the Altar 2012
Lambda print

8. Janie Barrett
Sydney NSW
Labelled 2012
digital print

9. Katalin Bayer
Sydney NSW
Six 2013
pigment print on cotton rag paper

10. Brett Boardman
Sydney NSW
Rick Den Ule Muster 2011 2011
Lambda print

11. Bonney Bombach
Hydroway Bay QLD
Homeward journey (Wiyani) 2013
digital print

12. Sally Bongers
Sydney NSW
Australia 2012
archival inkjet print on cotton rag paper

13. Chris Budgeon
Melbourne VIC
Chris Budgeon 2013
archival pigment print

14. Elaine Bull
Newcastle NSW
Double dare 2013
digital print

15. Trish Callaghan
MunroBumah NSW
Now you are Gods 2013
high gloss pigment ink print face mounted
under plexiglass

16. Michael Cook
Brisbane QLD
Stickman #10 2011
inkjet print on archival Hahnemühle cotton rag paper

17. Michael Coridore
Sydney NSW
Elizabeth 2012
archival pigment print
Courtesy of Edmund Pearce Gallery, Melbourne VIC

18. Ross Couter
Melbourne Vic
Self portrait as Aussie Jesus (after Dürer) 2013
type C print

19. Bryon Covedy
Banora Point NSW
Claudia - 20 years on 2013
giclee print
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Media Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Athene Currie</td>
<td>Mt Glorious QLD</td>
<td>Walk the line</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Digital print from Holga negative on archival paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Helga Dalla</td>
<td>Bundina QLD</td>
<td>My boys</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Archival inkjet print on Hahnemühle cotton rag paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Dean Dampney</td>
<td>Lake Tabourie NSW</td>
<td>Portrait with sticks</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Archival inkjet print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Raimond de Werdt</td>
<td>Lismore NSW</td>
<td>Self portrait with cactus and telephone</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Lambda print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Tamara Dean</td>
<td>Sydney NSW</td>
<td>Brothers</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Lambda print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Sashi Douglas</td>
<td>Melbourne VIC</td>
<td>Rebirth</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Lambda print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Jacqueline Drinkall</td>
<td>Sydney NSW</td>
<td>Waiting for my friend Lance Priestly</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Lambda print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Justin Eiland</td>
<td>Murwillumbah NSW</td>
<td>Self portrait - my golden bijabky</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Lambda print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Petronella Fielding</td>
<td>Armidale NSW</td>
<td>Walk the line</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Lambda print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Tina Fivesh</td>
<td>Sydney NSW</td>
<td>Walk the line</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Lambda digital print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Kyle Foley</td>
<td>Raymond Terrace NSW</td>
<td>Alter boy</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Lambda digital print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Patrick Gorbunovs</td>
<td>Northern Rivers NSW</td>
<td>The Gallery Director</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Lambda digital print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Lee Grant</td>
<td>Canberra ACT</td>
<td>Andy 2012</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Lambda print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Janina Green</td>
<td>Melbourne VIC</td>
<td>Ave Maria 2013</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Lambda print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Leon Gregory</td>
<td>Kangaroo Valley NSW</td>
<td>Annie at home 2013</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Lambda print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>James Guppy</td>
<td>Northern NSW</td>
<td>Portrait with sticks</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Lambda print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Imogen Hall</td>
<td>Melbourne VIC</td>
<td>Barry James and the ancestor 2012</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Lambda print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Jodie Harris</td>
<td>Gunman NSW</td>
<td>Bushman’s sheds - a haven for our skilled retired farmers 2012</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Lambda print</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
38 * Sam Harris
Balingup WA
Limo 2012 from the series 'The middle of somewhere' 2012
digital inkjet print

39 * Sahlan Hayes
Kurrajong/Sydney NSW
Noah 2013
digital print

40 * Petrina Hicks
Sydney NSW
Clement 2011
pigment print
Courtesy of Stills Gallery, Sydney NSW and Helen Gory Galerie, Prahran VIC

41 * Rod Hunt
Sydney NSW
Xmas Kil - Koii Fox 2013
digital print

42 * Serana Hunt
Dookie VIC
Zoe, Dookie Show 2012
archival inkjet print

43 * Jodie Hutchinson
Melbourne VIC
Hunter 2013
pigment print

44 * Rebecca Johnson
Melbourne VIC
Scarlett 2011
fine art digital print

38 * Sam Harris
Balingup WA
Limo 2012 from the series 'The middle of somewhere' 2012
digital inkjet print

39 * Sahlan Hayes
Kurrajong/Sydney NSW
Noah 2013
digital print

40 * Petrina Hicks
Sydney NSW
Clement 2011
pigment print
Courtesy of Stills Gallery, Sydney NSW and Helen Gory Galerie, Prahran VIC

41 * Rod Hunt
Sydney NSW
Xmas Kil - Koii Fox 2013
digital print

42 * Serana Hunt
Dookie VIC
Zoe, Dookie Show 2012
archival inkjet print

43 * Jodie Hutchinson
Melbourne VIC
Hunter 2013
pigment print

44 * Rebecca Johnson
Melbourne VIC
Scarlett 2011
fine art digital print

* Denotes image detail
Denotes image detail
List of Works

74 Russell Shakespeare
Cumaulnd QLD
Bob Katter MP  2011
digital print on cotton rag paper

75 Laki Sideris
Melbourne VIC
Orange gloves  2012
 Lambda print

76 Min Simekovic
Melbourne VIC
Son of Vicenza  2013
archival digital giclee print on photo lustre paper
Courtesy of DNA Gallery, Melbourne VIC

77 Alexia Sinclair
Sydney NSW
Li Cunxin, Mao’s Last Dancer  2012
archival pigment print

78 Tristan Still
Sydney NSW
Jackson Steele  2012
type C print

79 David Symons
Brisbane QLD
The anthropometrist’s daughter  2012
digital print

80 Virginia Szmarz
Sydney NSW
Serious  2012
digital print face mounted on acrylic

81 Tobias Titze
Melbourne VIC
Alebrad and Nevilke Taylor  2012
type C print

82 Mick Tukas
Sydney NSW
Hugh at the races  2013
digital print

83 Sonia Tumer
Cowie NSW
Self Portrait, leaving home  2011
digital print from B&W film

84 Frances Valentine
Melbourne VIC
Jenny  2013
archival pigment print

85 Perri Wain
Uki NSW
Juggling with football  2013
digital print on fine art paper

86 Hisay Walker
Melbourne VIC
Mike Mares  2012
pigment ink print on cotton rag paper

87 Andrey Walkling
Melbourne VIC
I’m not the solution to your problem, I’m another problem  2012
pigment print

88 Peter Whyte
Hobart TAS
She doesn’t really like the lip-ring and tattoos
on her beautiful boy, Ned  2012
pigment print on Canson Infinity Baryta Photographique paper

89 Vikky Wilkes
Canberra ACT
Mae  2013
digital print on Arches Velin Museum rag paper

90 Anne Zahalka
Sydney NSW
The Bathers revisited  2013
type C print on Ilfiflex paper
Courtesy of Artnet Gallery VIC and Roslyn Oakey Sydney NSW

91 Sharon Zwi
Sydney NSW
Bob and Ali  2012
archival digital photographic print on cotton rag paper

* Denotes image detail
Olive Cotton

Portrait of a Girl  1931
Olive Cotton by Max Dupain

Olive Cotton (1911-2003) discovered the art of photography during her childhood and was committed to the practice throughout her life. Her mother was a talented painter who died young. Her father was a geologist and had learnt the elements of photography for his journey to Antarctica in 1907. He later passed these skills on to his children.

Graduating with an Arts degree, Olive Cotton worked successfully as a photographer at Max Dupain’s Sydney studio until the end of World War II. She then relocated with her new husband, Ross McInerney, to the bush near Koorawatha, NSW. For 20 years she had no access to darkroom facilities, but nonetheless continued taking photographs.

In 1964 Cotton opened a small studio in Cowra and took local portraits, weddings and commissions. In 1985, after a 40 year absence from the city art scene, she re-emerged with her first solo show at the Australian Centre for Photography in Sydney. She then concentrated on rediscovering and printing her life’s work. A major exhibition of Cotton’s work was shown at the Art Gallery of NSW in 2000.

Previous Winners

2005
Ella Dreyfus
The Lads: Nodz and Dax  (detail)
Judge: Sally McInerney

2006
Siri Hayes
Monty / Sally
Judge: Dr Gene Sherman

2007
George Fetting
Sheik Taj Din al-Hilali, former Mufti of Australia – Lakemba  (detail)
Judge: Richard Moore

2008
Emily Portmann
The Stone  (detail)
Judge: Rex Dupain

2009
Richard O’Farrell
Savitri  (detail)
Judge: Dean Sewell

2011
Tamara Dean
Damien Skipper  (detail)
Judge: Naomi Cass
2013 olive cotton award
for photographic portraiture

9 August - 29 September 2013

Public Programs

Saturday 10 August
11.00am Floortalk: Helen Ennis on photographer Olive Cotton
5.00pm (for 5.30pm) Official opening and announcement of winners

Sunday 15 September
11.00am Floortalk: Dr Doug Spowart on the 2013 Olive Cotton Award
1.00pm The Artist and Social Media – making connections and making art
Presented by Dr Doug Spowart and Dr Victoria Cooper