



olive cotton award

for photographic portraiture



Tweed River Art Gallery Thursday 20 July - Sunday 10 September

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Portraits, quintessential strategies for capturing human essence and lionising inherited or earned achievement, loomed large within the pre-photographic art historical canon. Photomedia versions have democratised the process, encouraging what Warhol famously described as everyman's or everywoman's 'fifteen minutes of fame' – both on the part of the artist-photographer and in relation to the submissive subject – offering up a studied and often multifaceted persona to the public gaze.

The impetus to capture, collapse, modify and mollify the human presence and ego engages artist, subject and viewer in the early twenty-first century as it has done over the past five hundred years. Tony Bond's 2006 Self-Portrait: Renaissance to Contemporary at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney and the National Portrait Gallery, London; Rachel Kent's Museum of Contemporary Art Masquerade exhibition running concurrently with *Volte Face: Mike Parr Prints & Pre-prints*, her sensitively curated 35-year self-portrait exploration by the artist; and Sam Taylor Wood's 'Crying Men' celebrities in staged distress – not to mention the ongoing attraction of the Archibald Prize, both painting-focused and photographic – all bear testimony to the fascination of the genre. Sally McInerney, 2005 Olive Cotton Award judge, reminded us of the important role that portraiture played in Cotton's professional life. The works that I felt honoured to preview and assess in this 2006 Award round, though clearly sharing common ground, separate, it seems to me, into three distinctive categories.

The first – intensely focused, intimate portraits of individual characters whose experiences etched into their physiognomy mesh with this country's Anglo or European heritage – provide a rich and resolved grouping. A parallel cluster signals a broader community presence with often deeply penetrating portraits of African community members, Asian Australians and a clearly significant grouping of indigenous Australians. A special body of portraits in the third grouping privileges context, where in-situ compositional frameworks signal individual preoccupations – the extended setting gently guiding and circumscribing the viewer's interpretation.

I looked for and found compositionally satisfying, emotionally rich work. I sought images that extend our day-to-day boundaries and reflect in subtle ways the times in which we live. Congratulations to all the artists who captured on camera the wonderful portraits submitted – and especially, of course, to those who have been selected. Olive Cotton surely would have been delighted to find so many kindred spirits.

Dr Gene Sherman

*Director, Sherman Galleries,
Paddington, Sydney
2006 Award Judge*

In its second year, the **Olive Cotton Award** for photographic portraiture once again received a strong body of work from photographers throughout Australia. This year's judge, Dr Gene Sherman of Sherman Galleries, Sydney, had the difficult task of selecting 106 portraits from more than 250 high quality entries.

The resulting exhibition of contemporary photographic portraiture is inspiring, thought provoking and deeply touching. To me, the 2006 Award has two themes gently permeating many of the works. Numerous images take us on a journey through life from innocent infancy, beautiful youth, sensuous pregnancy and sculpted maturity to graceful age and even luminous death. Also, many of the selected portraits celebrate, and at times critically appraise, cultural and ethnic diversity within Australia and around the world.

Frank Stadler

*Public Program Curator
Tweed River Art Gallery*



Olive (1943)

Jean Lorraine (Jean McInerney)
fibre base paper mounted on card
20.5 x 16.3cm

The **Olive Cotton Award** is an annual award for excellence in photographic portraiture offering a \$10,000 major prize, funded by Cotton's family in memory of "one of Australia's leading twentieth century photographers" (Art Gallery NSW, 2000).

The Friends of the Tweed River Art Gallery sponsor additional Directors Choice awards to the value of \$2,000. All awards are acquisitive with the winning works becoming part of the Tweed River Art Gallery's *Australian Portrait Collection*.



The exhibition has been selected by **Dr Gene Sherman**, the 2006 Award judge, from entrants across Australia and is a significant opportunity for both emerging and established photographers.



Eve Wicks



Derek Ross



Vicki Petherbridge



Mark Williamson



Philip Wilson (detail)

List of Works

Tarja Ahokas <i>Raimo</i> type C colour print \$880	Stephen Blanch <i>Self Portrait Fantasy, Moment of Decision</i> archival digital print \$895	Eloise de Hauteclouque <i>Self-portrait: if my twin were alive 2005</i> silver gelatin print on fibre based paper \$895
Effy Alexakis <i>Mark outside his studio</i> Lambda print \$2,000	Tallulah Brown <i>Great Grandparents and Ava</i> type C digital print \$400	Ruwan De Silva <i>Lost and Found</i> fibre based archival print \$300
Louise Allerton <i>Jody, Rochelle and Loretta</i> type C print from digital image \$650	James Bryans <i>Untitled (June 2005)</i> silver gelatin print \$750	Sonja de Sterke <i>Josh and Ebony</i> digital print on archival fine art paper \$750
Narelle Autio <i>Trent and Jem Parke, 2005</i> Designjet print - archival \$1,650	Alex Buckingham <i>Dad</i> digital print \$880	Tamara Dean <i>Alex and James</i> Designjet print - archival \$800
Stephen Baccon <i>Donnie X9</i> digital print metallic paper \$1,500	Chris Budgeon <i>Roy</i> archival inkjet print \$770	Dominika Debska <i>Edu Girls</i> digital print \$280
Gorge Bajada <i>Self Portrait</i> digital print \$900	Elizabeth Bull <i>Pau Pau: Grandma</i> digital print \$600	Matt Ditton <i>38 mornings, open/closed</i> inkjet on archival stock \$1,200
Sarah Barker <i>I Know That Place: Portrait of Jack Munday in the Rocks</i> silver gelatin print \$1,250	Dick Caughley <i>Pho Master</i> digital print on canvas \$1,000	Marian Drew <i>Genevieve</i> Giglee Print \$3,800 <i>Courtesy of Dianne Tanzer Gallery</i>
Carol Barroso <i>Timeless</i> digital print \$1,500	Claire Chau <i>Itab</i> silver gelatin print \$375	Ella Dreyfus <i>David Moses</i> digital print \$1,600
Michael Batterham <i>Birth</i> Digital print \$1,125	Allison Davies <i>Some Decisions are Life Changing</i> silver gelatin print \$450	Roger D'Souza <i>Michaela</i> digital print \$1,800

Justin Ealand
Anonymous
Colour print on fine art
paper
\$550

Julia Featherstone
Andrew Mcfarlane
archival digital print
\$950

Joseph Feil
*Lenny - New Years
Dawn*
Museo Silver Rag
Digital Inkjet Print
\$566

Georgie Fenton
*The Hiding Place,
2006*
digital colour print
\$850

George Fetting
*Adam Spencer -
Newtown 2006*
Lamba Digital Print
\$2,500

Patricia Fielding
Julia
digital print colour B/W
\$800

Cressida Gaukroger
Aerobatics #1
B&W print
\$600

Chilin Gieng
Brett
digital print
\$325

Uli Gurung
I, Myself and Me
type C print
\$1,050

Roger Hanley
*fables and
reconstructions #11
(self portrait)*
type C print
\$750

Anna-Maree Harman
The Vanishing Farmer
digital print
\$450

Simon Harsent
Will
Glicee print
\$2,800

Ponch Hawkes
*"Daniel 1st year
apprentice welder"
from the series "you
gotta be 16 to start"*
silver gelatin print
\$950

Courtesy of Chrysalis

Sahlan Hayes
*'Harry Williams' left
back Australian 1974
world cup team*
digital print off B&W
Polaroid
\$600

Siri Hayes
Monty / Sally
type C print
\$1,290

Hayley Hillis
Backstage
selenium toned silver
gelatin print on fibre
based paper
\$600

Mari Hirata
*The Pregnant Bride
(from the series
Sacred Ties)*
type C print
\$2,200

*Courtesy of Artgalleries
Schubert (Gold Coast) and
Metro5 Gallery (Melbourne)*

Craig Holmes
Be There
digital print archival
\$1,250

Vera Hong
*"Matthew" from the
series "Liverpool
City Motel. Part 1:
The Home of Sweet
Dreams."*
Lambda print (2005)
\$1,200

Jennifer Hyatt
After the Birth
digital print
\$2,700

Kate Jardine
*Meville Escott,
Artist and Elder*
digital print
\$500

Edna Jennings
*Take a good look,
Do you see*
type C colour print
\$1,200

David Kelly
*Ayaku Okumura 68
shows her emotion
as he recounts her
experiences during
and after the Nagasaki
A bomb blast*
digital print B&W
\$660

Geoffrey Luck



Efy Alexakis



Marina Ostovic



Carole Tilney



Ponch Hawkes (detail)



Paul Pennell
Johnny
Lambda digital print
\$600

Viki Petherbridge
This is Not Love
type C print
\$3,300

Vendula Pribylova
Giussepina
inkjet print
\$350

Zorica Purlija
Jess with twins
silver gelatin print on
fibre base paper, from
35mm negative
\$650

Derek Ross
Vietnam Dream
type C print from
digital negative
\$2,800
*Courtesy of ANCA Studios,
Canberra, ACT*

Robert Scott-Mitchell
Silence
digital print (archival
pigment inks
on photo rag)
\$1,100

Russell Shakespeare
*Artist, William
Robinson*
digital print
\$1,100

Alan Smith
*Slave Exit to Waiting
Boats*
digital print
\$890

Grant Somers
Cronulla Sky
digital print
\$205

Hamish Ta-mé
N'fa
type C colour print
\$600

Audrey Taylor
Home from the sea
digital print
\$500

Katharine Tebbatt
Nicholas Bookhead
type C colour print

Michele Thomas
*Jean at the Red Dove
Opportunity Shop*
digital print
\$360

Emma Thomson
Young Couple
silver gelatin print
\$880

Carole Tilney
Sentry
type C print digital
capturer printed on
Kodak Professional
Paper
\$1,200

Kerry Trapnell
*Aurukun Tie Dye
Artists (l to r) Kate
Wolmby, Merle Landis
and Margalene
Tybingoempa,
Aurukun, Cape York
Peninsula, 1995*
digital print
\$330

Pauline Trower
Log
Lightjet Print
\$800

Asia Upward
Bound
silver gelatin print
\$880

Richard Waugh
The Lucky Country
type C colour print
\$500

Eve Wicks
*Petronela (from the
Lithuanian Widows
Series)*
giclee print on lustre
paper
\$600

Mark Williamson
Jonny
digital print
\$800

Phillip Wilson
*Oka-Kun, Special
Needs Student,
"Kenko No Mori",
Japan*
digital print
\$500

Timothy Woodham
*China Girl: Xiaorong
(Beijing, September
2005)*
silver gelatin print
\$500

Sasha Ruth Woolley
*Terezina (from the
Limelight Series)*
Lambda print
\$860

Yvette Worboys
*Good Friday 2006,
a portrait of Colleen
Evenhuis*
digital print
\$2,100

Raimo Kivinen



Simon Harsent



Sonja de Sterke



Narelle Munro



Anna-Maree Harman



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Front cover images left to right details:

Roger D'Souza
Elizabeth Bull
Ella Dreyfus
Alex Buckingham
George Fetting

Back cover images left to right details:

Hayley Hillis
Hamish Ta-mé
Kerry Trapnell
Dick Caughley
Paul Pennell



Tweed River Art Gallery

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