

HUW DAVIES GALLERY | 17 November–4 December 2011

***Identity Through Our Eyes***

Kerstin Styche

PhotoAccess is pleased to present a second 2011 exhibition by Kerstin Styche, *Identity Through Our Eyes*, following her NAIDOC Week exhibition *Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang* (Strong Black Women) in July this year.

*Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang* was Kerstin's exhibition as our fourth PhotoAccess Emerging Indigenous photographer, assisted by funding from the ACT component of the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy (VACS). This exhibition is the culmination of a Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) graduate emerging artist residency, also assisted by VACS funding.

2011 has been a busy and interesting year for Kerstin Styche, a Wiradjuri woman with family connections to Western New South Wales. Born and raised in Canberra, Kerstin graduated with a Bachelor of Design (Photography) from CIT in 2010. She works as a Senior Photographic Technician at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

As well as her two PhotoAccess residencies and Huw DAVIES GALLERY exhibitions this year, Kerstin was presented with the Len Barratt Award for the outstanding CIT graduate in photography in October, and named ACT NAIDOC Artist of the Year in July.

We first saw her powerful black and white portraits in *White Walls*, the December 2010 exhibition by CIT students at the High Court of Australia. Kerstin was selected for 2011 residencies and exhibitions with us on the basis of that work, which she developed for the *Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang* exhibition. The images in *Identity Through Our Eyes* are new work, this time in colour and titled. As she says in her Artist Statement:

Each individual comes from a different and distinctive cultural background but they are all Australian and all friends or people I know well ... Often, names can act as indicators of an individual's ethnicity. A name can be typical of a certain culture or sometimes they are simply names that you hear frequently. I chose to title each image using the individual's first name to demonstrate their cultural background and also the diversity in the group.

*Identity Through Our Eyes*, like *Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang* is about culture as a personal and group identifier—the earlier exhibition about the shared values of Indigenous women; in this exhibition about common national and generational values deriving from many distinctive cultures. Both of these thoughtful exhibitions are significant achievements by an outstandingly talented and insightful young photographer.

David Chalker  
Director



Adam



Shona

Supported by the ACT and Commonwealth Governments

## Artist statement

*Identity Through Our Eyes* is a group of portraits of young people between the ages of 16 and 30. Each individual comes from a different and distinctive cultural background but they are all Australian and all friends or people I know well.

This series reflects the multicultural nature of Australia, which is something that has always inspired me. I aimed to focus, in particular, on the culture of my generation, the younger generation of Australians.

I wanted the photographs to be about the individual, so I let each person choose their own clothing and stance to allow their personalities to become apparent. I gave my subjects little direction as to how they should pose, against a background that does not distract from their individuality. These portraits are about the individuality of young Australians who have been shaped by their unique cultural heritage as well as by Australian culture.

Often, names can act as indicators of an individual's ethnicity. A name can be typical of a certain culture or sometimes they are simply names that you hear frequently. I chose to title each image using the individual's first name to demonstrate their cultural background and also the diversity in the group.

To me, *Identity Through Our Eyes* portrays each individual for who they are, while at the same time demonstrating the diversity of Australian society today.

Kerstin Styche

November 2011

## Biography

### Education

2010 Bachelor of Design (Photography), Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)

2009 Advanced Diploma of Photography, CIT

2006 Certificate IV in Community Services, CIT

2005 Year 12 Certificate Erindale College

Other courses: CIT Solutions Digital Photography & Computers; PhotoAccess Introduction to Digital Photography; CIT Solutions Photography Essentials; Wizard Computer Training (Photoshop Essentials); Cultural Awareness Training, Boomanulla Oval, Narrabundah ACT

### Solo exhibitions

2011 *Identity Through Our Eyes*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY, PhotoAccess, Manuka Arts Centre, Canberra, ACT

*Young & Old*, Manning Clark Centre, ANU

*Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY, PhotoAccess

*Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang*, AIATSIS (March 2010)



Nicole



Nawar



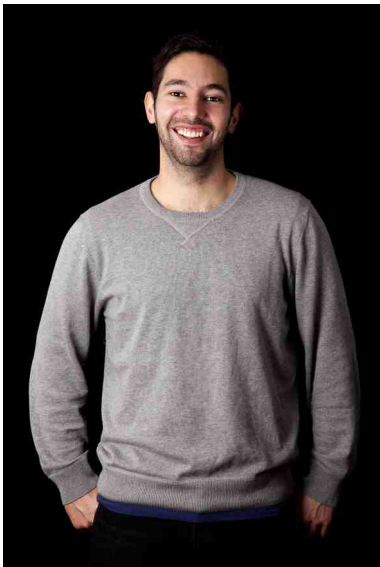
Georgia



Joshua



Zoe



David

### Selected group exhibitions

- 2010 *White Walls*, High Court of Australia, ACT; *Fawn*, Design Space, CIT
- 2009 *48-15*, High Court of Australia, ACT
- 2008 *POW – Pictures on Walls*, High Court of Australia, ACT
- 2007 *Echo – Each Chooses Her Own*, High Court of Australia, ACT; *Tasmania* (CIT)
- 2006 *Digital Photography & Computers*, Online Exhibition, [www.allanmoore.com/gallery](http://www.allanmoore.com/gallery)
- 2005 *Metamorphosis*, Erindale College, ACT
- 2004 *Lanyon*, Lanyon Homestead, ACT

### Awards

- 2011 ACT NAIDOC Artist of the Year; 2011 PhotoAccess Emerging Indigenous Photographer; PhotoAccess CIT graduate artist in residence; Len Barratt Award for outstanding graduate in photography
- 2010 Best Studio Lighting for Final Year Student in the Degree Program, CIT; Most Outstanding Final Year Student in the Degree Program, CIT; Institute Medal, Centre for Creative Studies, CIT (presented bi-annually in first semester and October graduation ceremonies; nominations are based on the academic achievements of graduating students)
- 2006 Achievement Award AIATSISS
- 2005 Commitment Award for Parenting and Childcare, Erindale College
- 2003 Outstanding Achievement and Application to Studies, Mackillop Catholic College

### Publications

- 2011 *The Canberra Times*, *Hobby Develops into fulfilling profession & Graduates on course for fine careers* (20 October 2011); AIATSISS Young & Old: Connecting Generations Conference Program and poster
- 2010 *National Indigenous Times*, 'Kerstin Styche: Portrait of success' (July 2010); *The Canberra Times*, *Photographer shifts focus to show women in their own light* (June 2010)  
*AIATSISS Institute NEWS*: August 2009; November 2008; March 2008; September 2007; December 2006
- 2008 *The Canberra Times* (Education Magazine): 'Indigenous Australia: Here and Now'; *The Chronicle*, 'NAIDOC Week' in the ACT
- 2007 Koori Mail, NAIDOC Day (July 2007)

## List of works

Ultrachrome HDR pigment inkjet prints  
on Harman Gloss FB AI Warmtone  
320 gsm paper

61 x 43 cm (paper size)

Limited edition of 10

\$185 each (unframed)

- 1 ***Nicole***
- 2 ***Joshua***
- 3 ***Georgia***
- 4 ***David***
- 5 ***Shona***
- 6 ***Adam***
- 7 ***Zoë***
- 8 ***Nawa***
- 9 ***Yin***
- 10 ***Tawanda***



*Yin*



*Tawanda*