

**N a t u r a l l y B e a u t i f u l**

Katherine Griffiths

PhotoAccess offers residency opportunities to a number of artists each year. An aim of the residency program is to assist emerging artists to develop their practice and present work to a wider audience.

Support for artists in residence includes PhotoAccess membership, use of facilities and equipment, access to courses and workshops, help with grants applications, mentoring and advice, technical and creative support and, in some cases, exhibition opportunities.

PhotoAccess is a strong supporter of the ANU School of Art's Emerging Artists Support Scheme (EASS): two of our residencies each year are awarded to School of Art final year graduates. Katherine Griffiths and Natalie Azzopardi are our residents from the 2010 graduating year. Support from the ACT component of the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy allows us to help emerging artists show their work as part of the HUW DAVIES GALLERY exhibitions program. For many this is their first solo exhibition, helping build a bridge between their student and future lives as contemporary visual artists.

Katherine Griffiths had a very busy year in 2011, with two residencies, two solo exhibitions and work in five group shows. *Naturally Beautiful* is her first solo exhibition in a public art gallery and a good finish to the year.

The idea for the exhibition was first discussed with us early in 2011. It was unclear then how she might successfully and without sensation tell a story of the societal pressures on girls, as she says:

... aged between 12 and 13, an age where [they] begin to shape their identity through physical appearance and body image. At this age, they are vulnerable to the various constructed ideals of beauty that are projected by the media and general pop culture.

That Griffiths has done so effectively and with such subtlety and sensitivity is a tribute to her conceptual and technical skills. Her wall images reference the apparent need young girls have to project a more alluring and grown up image, an image that can lead to danger. The accompanying short film, *Dance with me*, is not quite so subtle as it points to the sexualisation of girls through the influence of pop culture and social media.

PhotoAccess is proud to present Katherine Griffiths' *Naturally Beautiful*, including her short film *Dance with me*, to visitors to the HUW DAVIES GALLERY.

David Chalker



Erin



Erin #2



Jasmin



Jasmin #2

## Artist statement

The six girls presented here are aged between 12 and 13, an age where girls begin to shape their identity through physical appearance and body image. At this age, they are vulnerable to the various constructed ideals of beauty that are projected by the media and general pop culture.

The female figures we see in fashion advertisements, magazines and music videos have been laboriously manipulated using digital editing techniques, ultimately creating a skewed representation of perfection. The over saturation of these images can make it difficult for girls to differentiate between what is real and constructed.

To see these young girls in *Naturally Beautiful*, transformed at such a susceptible age, allows us to consider the various ways in which they may or may not develop as young women.

I created a video piece titled *Dance with me* to further convey the influence of the female icon portrayed in pop music videos. This video aims to highlight the suggestive nature of pop music and how some girls are influenced to adopt and mimic the image and dance styles of their female role models.

The intention of the series *Naturally Beautiful* is to create an insight into the female image generated by popular culture and the potential influence this image creates for our younger generation, ultimately challenging our ideals and perception on how we see beauty in today's society.

Katherine Griffiths

December 2011

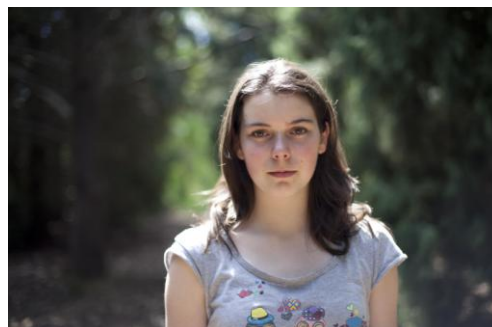
## Artist CV

### Education

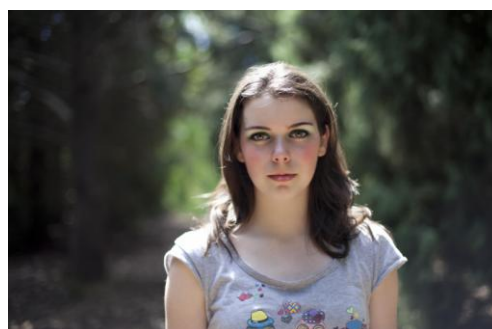
- 2010 Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours), majoring in Photography and New Media Arts, Australian National University (ANU) School of Art
- 2009 Bachelor of Visual Arts, majoring in Photography and New Media Arts, ANU School of Art

### Solo exhibitions

- 2011 *Naturally Beautiful*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY, PhotoAccess, Manuka Arts Centre, Canberra, ACT  
*Entertain Me*, M16 Artspace, Canberra
- 2009 *Psychogeography*, Chifley Library, ANU, Canberra



Sarah



Sarah #2



Manon



Manon #2

## Selected group exhibitions

- 2011 *Max16*, M16 Artspace, Canberra  
*Triptych*, presented by Wobble, Knightsbridge, Canberra  
*Trivia*, The Foyer Gallery, ANU School of Art, Canberra  
M16 Studio Artists Exhibition, M16 Artspace, Canberra  
*CAPO 28*, National Archives of Australia, Barton ACT
- 2010 M16 *Christmas sellabration* Exhibition, M16 Artspace, Canberra  
ANU School of Art Graduating Exhibition, ANU School of Art, Canberra  
*Here we are, exactly where we were a year ago*, a group exhibition presented by the Turf Collective, Photospace Gallery, Photomedia Department, ANU, Canberra
- 2009 ANU School of Art Graduating Exhibition



Rhiannon



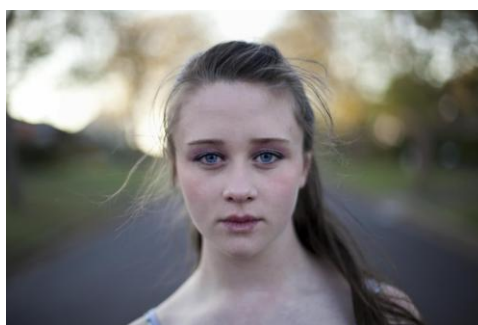
Rhiannon #2

## Selected awards and publications

- 2011 PhotoAccess Emerging Artist Support Scheme (EASS) residency  
M16 Art Space (EASS) residency, Canberra  
*Art Monthly Australia*, Issue 245, November 2011  
Video works accepted as finalist in Canberra Short and Sweet Festival
- 2010 EASS Patrons Honours Scholarship and Acquisition Award  
*The Canberra Times*, 'School of Art Graduating Exhibition Review', Myles Peterson, December  
*BMA*, Exhibitionist Reviews, Canberra, ACT  
Graduating Exhibition Catalogue, ANU School of Art, Canberra  
Public Trustee for the ACT 'Life's Reflections Photographic Competition' Encouragement Award
- 2009 *Downturn*, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT  
Graduating Exhibition Catalogue, ANU School of Art, Canberra
- 2007 Public Trustee for the ACT 'Life's Reflections Photographic Competition' First Place and Award for Photographic Excellence  
*The Chronicle*, 'Best Photographers – Positive images of ageing', March 2007
- 2006 Public Trustee for the ACT 'Life's Reflections Photographic Competition' Award for Photographic Excellence
- 2005 Grammar Choice Award, winner for photography
- 2004 Burrawi Photography Competition, First Place



Pip



Pip #2

## Experience in the creative sector

Video works accepted for Canberra's Short and Sweet Festival, November 2011

Photographer's Assistant, Artist Anne Zahalka, National Portrait Gallery, January 2010

Photographer, *The Canberra Times*, ACT, June-July 2009

Photographic Assistant, Global Television, Sydney, NSW, November 2006

Graphic Design Assistant, ACP Magazines, Sydney NSW, November 2006

## List of works

Edition of 3

Inkjet prints, 420 X 594 mm, \$350 (unframed); images bought as a pair \$600 (unframed)

- 1 *Erin*
- 2 *Erin #2*
- 3 *Jasmin*
- 4 *Jasmin #2*
- 5 *Sarah*
- 6 *Sarah #2*
- 7 *Manon*
- 8 *Manon #2*
- 9 *Rhiannon*
- 10 *Rhiannon # 2*
- 11 *Pip*
- 12 *Pip #2*
- 13 *Dance with me* DVD 1:56



*Film stills from Dance with me*