

HUW DAVIES GALLERY 18 March–4 April 2010

Trucking

Lorna Sim

Lorna Sim's images are always strikingly beautiful and meticulously composed; her creative skills are reflected in the many awards she has received in recent years. Lorna's work has been seen in PhotoAccess and other group exhibitions and small solo shows, but this is her first solo exhibition in the HUW DAVIES GALLERY.

When we discussed the idea of an exhibition with Lorna we had in mind the work we were familiar with—dancers, portraits, atmospheric street scenes, interiors and landscapes. We were unprepared for the images she showed us. The *Trucking* images had immediate dramatic impact and showed a coherent, unusual vision. Clearly they came out of a deep fascination for the subject. As an artist in residence Lorna was able to consult with us to develop the series and the exhibition came together quickly in collaboration with Stephen Best of Macquarie Editions, who optimised the impact of the images in beautiful inkjet prints.

Lorna's career has been dominated by her interest in image making and storytelling. She worked in film and television for some years, and is now a restaurateur and very busy photographer.

Trucking is a powerful statement about the industry and, although we don't see them, the men and women it involves. Sim experiences obvious trepidation when she gets up close to the massive machines but she is intrigued by the people inside them and the lives they live. The placement of trucks on the road and the landscape setting point to emotional responses: threatened; the excitement of the journey; admiration for a long distance driver heading off into a long night; the truckie as a modern day working hero. There are wet days (which she particularly likes as subject matter), the portent and imminent challenge of heavy skies, long stretches of road and helpful signposts to give physical context to the journey.

Considering Lorna Sim's interest in the people involved in or affected by the trucking industry it was fitting that the exhibition should be dedicated to the late Bob Knight, whose accidental death last year shocked everyone.

We are delighted to present Lorna Sim's *Trucking* in the HUW DAVIES GALLERY at the Manuka Arts Centre.

David Chalker



Trucking 1



Trucking 2



Trucking 3

Artist statement

I have photographed trucks from the car (as a passenger) on trips between Canberra and Sydney. I often wonder what it's like to be up there in such a powerful machine overlooking the vast horizon, kilometres after seemingly endless kilometres. I've always been curious about a trucker's perspective on the world (photographically and literally)—the places they see, the people and weather they meet, the big and little tragedies, the life that's played out along the highways and 'low-ways' they travel. Mere mortals like me look up in wonder when we overtake a thundering truck, with mixed emotions of trepidation, challenge, fear and relief once we've managed to go the distance and get away from '... a load that could crush me a hundred times over ...' as Judith Bishop has written in her poem *Freight and Flight*. I like the way Judith has touched on many of the feelings I have about trucking and I thank her for allowing us to reproduce her poem here.

The images are very different from my normal work, and somewhat experimental. I have tried to capture that sense of mystery, the unknown, like creating the other world reality which is totally unfamiliar and exciting at the same time.

I dedicate *Trucking* to the memory of Bob Knight from Canberra, a trucking legend, family man and dog lover who was tragically killed in June 2009.

Lorna Sim, March 2010



Trucking 4



Trucking 5



Trucking 6

Freight and flight

Dawn heat, tarred sky
pink-striped on the horizon
beyond the lights of Darwin and the coast.

My rig sails into this air as though
weightless, two cars tall,
like a low-flying plane, skimming

the highway at the leaf-height
of the woollybutt,
dust clouds streaming,

gauges twitching to the forces
gently carrying me seated
like a gull wafted by a thunderstorm.

Driving this B-double, I'm as lusty
as Apollo, when he hitched his shining chariot,
the sun:

all the dazzlement
of power
focused in the steering column,

fierce stars arrowing
from the polished bull bar,
and a load that could crush me

a hundred times over –
but follows me
docile as a cloud.

Judith Bishop, from
The Red Room Company's
Dust Poems project
(www.redroomcompany.org)

Education

Advanced Diploma of Photography, Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT), Reid, ACT (2005–07); Certificate of Media Production and Communications, National Recording Studios (1997); Bachelor of Arts (Sociology/Anthropology), ANU (1995); Certificate of Creative Writing, CIT, Reid, ACT (1991)

Selected exhibitions

Solo exhibitions

- 2010 *Trucking*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY, PhotoAccess, Canberra
2009 *Blackbird*, Street Theatre, Canberra; *My favourite thing is...*, Abell's Kopi Tiam, Canberra
2007 *Stormy Afternoons*, Abell's Kopi Tiam, Canberra

Group exhibitions

- 2010 *PhotoAccess 25th Anniversary Print Portfolio*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY, PhotoAccess, Canberra
2009 *One Shot*, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Canberra; *Access All Areas 2009*, the PhotoAccess members show, HUW DAVIES GALLERY; *HIY (Hang it yourself) 2009*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY
2008 *Access All Areas 2008*, the PhotoAccess members show, HUW DAVIES GALLERY; *HIY (Hang it yourself) 2008*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY; *Space*, designspace@CIT Gallery, Reid, ACT; *My favourite thing is to go where I have never been*, joint exhibition with Payal Sehgal Mahajan, The Blue Roof Gallery, Tharwa, ACT
2007 *Access All Areas 2007*, the PhotoAccess members show, HUW DAVIES GALLERY; *Plastic? Fantastic!*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY; *PMA (Photo Marketing Association) Photographic Exhibition*, Convention Centre, Melbourne; *2007 ACT AIPP Print Awards Exhibition*, Canberra Centre, Canberra; *Disposable-Affluence: To Have or Not to Have* travelling exhibition, BDAS Gallery, Bowral, NSW
2006 *Separate Journeys*, Steps Gallery, Melbourne; *Capital Chemist Brindabella Regional Art Prize*, Tuggeranong Arts Centre; *Access All Areas 2006*, the PhotoAccess members show, HUW DAVIES GALLERY; *Ripe*, CIT photographic exhibition, High Court of Australia
2005 *History of Migrants*, University of Canberra and Queanbeyan Library, Queanbeyan, NSW; *Separate Realities*, Tuggeranong Arts Centre; *Industry Fodder*, CIT photographic exhibition, High Court of Australia
2004 *Refuge?*, Steps Gallery, Melbourne; *Unknown Destinies*, ACT Multicultural Festival, Garema Place, Canberra; *Refuge & Field of Hearts*, ACT Legislative Assembly, Canberra



Trucking 7



Trucking 8

Awards

Sony ACMP Projections 2009, Highly Commended (Art Category); The International Aperture Awards 2008, Bronze Award (Abstract/Illustrative); ACT AIPP Print Awards 2008, Silver Distinction Award (Landscape); Canson and Arches 2007 National Print Awards, 3rd Prize Black and White Print; ACT AIPP Print Awards 2007, 6 Silver Awards (Wedding, Landscape x 4, Portraiture); *Access All Areas 2007*: the PhotoAccess members show, Peoples' Choice award; 2006 *Capital Chemist Brindabella Regional Art Prize*, Highly Commended; 2006 Canson and Arches Nationwide Student Photographic Competition, 3rd Prize Black and White Print; *Ripe*, 2006 CIT Photographic Exhibition, Best Black and White Print

Trucking, 2010

List of works

All works unframed digital inkjet prints on Velin Museum Rag, AP edition of 9; printed by Stephen Best, Macquarie Editions

	Image size (inches)	\$
I-11	24 x 39	650
I2-15	13 x 19	180



Trucking 9



Trucking 10



Trucking 11



Trucking 12



Trucking 13



Trucking 14



Trucking 15