

HUW DAVIES GALLERY
3rd – 13th December 2015

A Place Within

Thea McGrath

About the artist

Thea McGrath is an emerging conceptual portrait photographer. After a corporate career in marketing and communications, Thea graduated from the Canberra Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Photography in 2014, where she was awarded an Australian Institute of Professional Photography outstanding achievement award. Her work aims to take viewers on an emotive visual journey, with a glimpse into her personal state; an expression of who she is.

Portraiture has always fascinated me, in that one image can tell so much or so little - not only about the person in front of the camera but also about the person behind the camera. For me, being behind a camera and the resulting image is an expression of who I am. My work really is a visual extension of how I feel.

Thea's work is vivid, feminine and raw. Her focus is on the portrayal of a portrait and the story it tells. Her work is also technical; she aims to capture each image in camera with little to no post-production and manipulation, yet her work has a freedom to it, by simply exploring what takes place in front of the camera and where a portrait might take her. This body of work was created with the assistance of another photographer. However, Thea provided visual diagrams, mood boards and explained her conceptual process in depth before the photographic session began. These images are the result of extensive research, planning and experimental photographic endeavours.

Since graduating, Thea has gone on to work in the Canberra not-for-profit arts sector and is currently Communications and Marketing Manager at Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre.

Artist statement | Thea McGrath

I am a mother, a wife, and a career-orientated woman. I often struggle to balance the daily routines of life with finding time to not only be who I am, but to express who I am. As a mother, I am compelled: by choice, everyone and everything tends to come first, as a mother, that's what you do. You nurture and care for those around you. Then with what might be left, you find time for yourself. As an artist, I am compelled to create. I am inspired to challenge myself to take time out of my daily routine, to think and to feel. To explore and express who I am.

This series of self-portraits is an expression of an overwhelming time. Days filled with family routines, searching for a family home and pursuing career goals. Yet, I struggled with the lingering thoughts and feelings that I was losing grasp of who I am. The images are also an expression of my confidence, in knowing that under all the overwhelming routine and daily life, I do know who I am. A confident, successful and wise woman and I am comfortable in expressing who I am.

About the 2015 Canberra Institute of Technology PhotoAccess Residency and Exhibition Award

In 2014, PhotoAccess selected two photography graduates from the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) for PhotoAccess emerging artist residencies: Thea McGrath and Hayley Boyle. The intention was to assist those photographers, in the emerging stage of their careers and with limited exhibition experience, to develop and present new work in Huw Davies Gallery exhibitions. *A Place Within* is the result of this one-year awarded residency and exhibition at PhotoAccess.

Works

A place within 1 2015, inkjet print, 160.0 x 112.0cm
A place within 2 2015, inkjet print, 112.0 x 81.0cm
A place within 3 2015, inkjet print, 112.0 x 81.0cm

Price

\$1,500
\$1,100
\$1,100



A place within 1 2015, inkjet print, 160.0 x 112.0cm

Public program | Artists in conversation

Thea McGrath, Hayley Boyle and David Flanagan discuss their residency exhibitions.
Sunday 13th December 2015, 2pm @ PhotoAccess

Thank you | Thea McGrath

I would like to thank Rachel, for pressing the shutter and for simply always being there; Janice Falsone and her team at PhotoAccess for the guidance and the opportunities I have been given over the past 12 months; Stephen Best for the wonderful prints; and my husband, daughter and family for all of their support and belief in me.