

HUW DAVIES GALLERY 31 January–17 February 2008

People | Ian Copland

This is Ian Copland's second solo exhibition in the HUW DAVIES GALLERY. *Structures*, shown in April last year, was an outstanding first exhibition depicting the architectural detail and surface patterns of three of Canberra's national institutions.

Ian Copland's exceptional compositional skills and strong feeling for colour were demonstrated in *Structures*. They are shown again in *People*—but here there is another dimension to his work. *People* is story telling with an important message.

Copland refers to this work as street photography illustrating human diversity. There can be no argument that his images suggest a world of considerable differences. They challenge us to consider the way we perceive people and difference. As in most street photography the subjects are approached objectively, but here in many cases without the illumination of context. The images straddle the boundaries of street photography and portraiture.

The striking images in the first part of the exhibition are diverse people brought together by attendance at a single event. They are starkly drawn, carved out of a bright blue sky. Their clothing, stance and groupings might be suggestive of their cultural background and attitude to this shared occasion, but there is little information to validate any reading a viewer might make of their thoughts, personalities and lives.

Titles and context provide assistance in the second part of the exhibition. These images are loaded with clues and suggestions. We feel we know something about the subjects and their stories, from the beatific nun in a Glasgow street to the charged up, buffed up man crossing Oxford Street, and the Sydney brothers who seem to display their personalities on their heads. This question comes to mind, though: do we know the people in this group more definitively than those in the first group or is the only objective reality their shared humanity?

Copland's important message emerges from his intriguing, huge collage, bringing the people in these first two groups and many others together with the people in the final group—four moving black and white images of people in an institution. They are people Copland worked with many years ago, individuals with their own stories and personalities. But, like us all, just people.

PhotoAccess is delighted to show Ian Copland's *People* in the HUW DAVIES GALLERY at the Manuka Arts Centre.

David Chalker



Man



Nun (Glasgow)

Artist's statement

People is a small snapshot of human diversity in three parts. All of these people are engaged in everyday activities, but what constitutes an everyday activity for one person or group can differ from person to person or group to group.

Part 1 is people with little context. Taking a minimalist approach to street photography, only the subjects and the sky are shown in each image. These people were all attending the same event, but the viewer is given access to the people only, not to the event. Viewers are encouraged to concentrate on each person or group to develop their own understanding of what the people are doing or thinking.

Part 2 is people with context. These are images of individuals or groups with some identifying context. They are images of people on the street, captured in everyday circumstances. My intention is to provide some context to enable the viewer to develop more a complete understanding of the people and their circumstances.

Part 3 is people on the outside, images of some of society's so called outcasts and people still rarely seen on the streets. The context is, nevertheless, their everyday life and circumstances in the institution where they live.

The collage brings together people from all contexts.

Ian Copland

January 2008



People—sky 6



Oxford Street

Biography

Exhibitions

Group

Canberra Photographic Society 60th Anniversary Exhibition, Canberra Museum and Art Gallery, 2006
Canberra Photographic Society Annual Exhibition, Strathnairn Gallery, 2005

Solo

People, HUW DAVIES GALLERY at PhotoAccess, January, February 2008
Structures, HUW DAVIES GALLERY at PhotoAccess, April 2007

Awards

Canberra Photographic Society:

- 2007 Commendation, Hedda Morrison Print Portfolio Trophy
- 2007 Winner, Hedda Morrison Print Portfolio Trophy; Winner, Slide of the Year; Winner, B Grade Slide competition; Commendation, B&W Print of the Year

Associations and memberships

Member, Canberra Photographic Society, Australian Photographic Society



People

List of works

All images are Type C photographs on Kodak Endura paper. Images 1 to 16 and 18 to 21 are artist's proofs from an edition of 5; \$210 each. Image 17 is an artist's proof from an edition of 5; POA

1-10	<i>People—sky 1 to 10</i>	415 x 595 mm
11	<i>Nun (Glasgow)</i>	595 x 415 mm
12	<i>Oxford Street</i>	595 x 415 mm
13	<i>Beggar (Cologne)</i>	595 x 415 mm
14	<i>Brothers (Sydney)</i>	415 x 595 mm
15	<i>Homeless (San Francisco)</i>	415 x 595 mm
16	<i>Boys with ice creams (Calw, Germany)</i>	415 x 595 mm
17	<i>People</i>	1450 x 1020 mm
18	<i>Boy</i>	595 x 415 mm
19	<i>Man</i>	595 x 415 mm
20	<i>Friends 1</i>	415 x 595 mm
21	<i>Friends 2</i>	415 x 595 mm



Brothers



Friends 2