

HUW DAVIES GALLERY 11–28 June 2009

Garema | Ian Copland

Garema is Ian Copland's third solo exhibition in the HUW DAVIES GALLERY. *Structures*, shown in April 2007, was an outstanding first exhibition based on the architecture of three of Canberra's national institutions.

Copland's exceptional compositional skills and strong feeling for colour were also demonstrated in his second exhibition, *People*, shown in early 2008. Unlike *Structures* and *Garema*, *People*—which challenged us to consider the way we perceive people and difference—had no Canberra connection. In *Garema*, Copland has focused on a Canberra sacred site.

Garema Place has been more than a physical location for generations of Canberra people. Starting life as a very formal city square, it was dominated by Young's department store and Canberra's adventurous first cafes and restaurants. In the 1960s, before the trees were established, it was a sterile, exposed place, but also a venue for polite family outings on a Saturday morning. From the 1970s it was fertile ground for musicians and street performers, including three young smart ass guys with a guitar who appropriated the name of the then leader of the National Party and moved on to stellar careers in comedy and the media.

Copland's *Garema* is Garema Place now, street photography reflecting the diversity and sheer untidiness of human activity in this lively and, at times, dangerous place. Compared to the early years the trees are fuller, the people are different and noisier, the cafes and restaurants are well established and well patronised, deals are more obvious, the birds are more aggressive, and skaters make no allowances for saunterers and immovable obstructions.

Garema is the least structured of Ian Copland's three HUW DAVIES GALLERY exhibitions, which seems entirely appropriate considering the time and place of its making. To emphasise the diversity of activity and community, Copland has included with 40 larger prints *Garema Collections 1* and 2, more than 150 randomly arranged post card sized prints giving us a comprehensive picture of this place many regard as the heart of Canberra.

Condemning the efforts of successive city managers to create Civic Square as a place for community focus and celebration, Garema Place continues as a magnet for lively activity, polite and very definitely impolite, at the centre of Canberra's psyche. Ian Copland gives us a genuine feel for the place and its people, including significant moments and hints at some quite beautiful stories, in *Garema*.

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

David Chalker



Garema 7



Garema 10

Supported by the ACT and Commonwealth Governments



Artist statement

An Internet search provides the following Wiki description of Garema Place:

Garema Place is a paved outdoor area in Civic, Canberra, Australia, with a number of shops and restaurants and cafes with outdoor dining. Many community events including protests and festivals are held at the location.

A bland description of a place in Canberra that has been integral to the city's development and it could be argued epitomises the soul of this great city (a city that is often described as not having a soul).

Further searches on the net reveal the following snippets about Garema:

The cheap smack that was scored is best enjoyed luke warm whilst lounging on the large chromed metal pillow fondly known as 'The Big Goon-Bag'

There will be dancing on the checker board in Garema place

Around 2 pm, police attended Garema Place, City and arrested the alleged offender with the help of members of the public

Bring in some goths, let them know that the Garema Emos are tarnishing their name

Garema Place, City; Aboriginal word meaning camp

This exhibition presents images of Garema Place.

Much has been written on what constitutes street photography and its rationale. Many regard it as little more than snapshots. I believe a good street photographer is able to tell a story—either in a single image or in a series of images. The world is filled with an untold amount of images waiting to be captured. A street photographer's challenge is capturing moments that have meaning. The art of street photography has been carried down by those who cannot take another step before capturing that moment. Capturing the world around us, for the sole purpose of retaining the unique situations that make life charming and exciting, is what makes street photography exciting and relevant.

The exhibition captures some Garema moments and tells some Garema stories.

Ian Copland

June 2009



Garema 9



Garema 4

Biography

Exhibitions

Group

Canberra Photographic Society Canberra Centre Exhibition, 2008

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

Canberra Photographic Society Annual Exhibition, Strathnairn Gallery, 2005

Solo

Garema, HUW DAVIES GALLERY at PhotoAccess, June 2009

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



Garema 22



Garema 6



Garema 1



Garema 19



Garema 11

List of works

All images LUCIA pigment ink prints (display permanence ratings over 100 years for colour images and longer for black and white) on Ilford Smooth Gloss Paper. *Garema 1 to 40* are artist's proofs from edition of 5, and printed either portrait or landscape on 29.7 x 42 cm paper. Images are for sale unframed at \$150, or as sets: 4 for \$450 or 5 for \$500. Images from *Garema Collection 1* and 2 can be printed 29.7 x 42 cm; prices as for *Garema 1 to 40* or other sizes by negotiation.

Garema 1 to 15 42 x 29.7 cm or 29.7 x 42 cm

Garema Collection 1

Garema 16 to 29 42 x 29.7 cm or 29.7 x 42 cm

Garema Collection 2

Garema 30 to 40 42 x 29.7 cm or 29.7 x 42 cm



Garema 36



Garema 18



Garema 26