

## Watson

*Watson* is Kerry Baylor's first solo exhibition in the HUW DAVIES GALLERY, although she can be found in or near the gallery most of the time talking about photography or PhotoAccess and its programs.

Since she joined PhotoAccess in 2005 Kerry has shown in all of the Members' Shows and in the 2007 group show *Plastic? Fantastic!* Her quirky, retro images of swimmers at Merewether Beach (Newcastle), Kenmore (the former psychiatric institution) and other Goulburn sites, bus travellers in Canberra and people and other subjects close to her are always different and intriguing.

With Robert Burne, Kathleen Fisher, Miguel Gallagher, Lorna Sim, Susan Stayer and Ed Whalan, Kerry is a member of the 'old spool Betties', a group of photographers who aim to encourage each other by creating and commenting on images based on a weekly theme. Examples of their work and musings can be found at [www.oldspoolbetties.blogspot.com](http://www.oldspoolbetties.blogspot.com). A short bio on the site provides some insight into Baylor and her interests:

Kerry Baylor has a collection of over-loved and under-used vintage cameras. Her photos look like they were taken in the same eras as her cameras were made.

Kerry Baylor shares a strong interest in narrative photography with many contemporary artists. Like Robyn Stacey, who travelled with her camera to interpret rural life in her *Queensland—out west* series (1982), Baylor provides a diverse visual sampling of her subject—in this case a Canberra suburb and its people. Her attitude to *Watson* and its newly developed areas is reflected in the images and in her Artist's Statement:

All the houses look the same. I didn't see anyone enjoying their newness, no one on the street. I felt like I was on the set of a Stephen King movie. Is this the future of suburbs? Creepy!! Sad!!

My images tell the story of my walk. I have come to love *Watson*, after just liking it for years. And I seem to have it all to myself!!

Ian North's *Canberra Suite* (1980–81) was a product of a wander around the deserted streets of new Canberra suburbs. Unlike North and other narrative artists, Kerry Baylor has boldly asserted her story in strong images endowed with attitude. She can't be accused of sitting on the fence here, of leaving viewers to read their own meaning into the story. The 'Majura Rise' images are starkly pejorative. By contrast, the 'Some houses', 'Green belt' and 'The shops' images are warmer and fonder, but hint at some disappointment Baylor feels with her neighbours' lack of appreciation for what they have in *Watson*.

Kerry Baylor's *Watson* is a celebration, but not unqualified, of a suburb, its people and their future. This is a story with parallels for other suburbs and other places. PhotoAccess is delighted to present *Watson* in the HUW DAVIES GALLERY at the Manuka Arts Centre.

David Chalker

## Kerry Baylor



*Majura Rise 1*



*Green belt 3*

## Artist's statement

I take photos all the time. I thought it would be good to tell a story about the place where I live so I went for a walk around Watson to find its story. I always assumed people moved to live in the suburbs to enjoy the things they offer, like neighbours you know and care about, parks and wide open spaces, the tree lined streets. I have always thought that when the leaves are gone the lid is lifted off.

I started with my favourite houses and I saw lovely streetscapes, houses with character and an open green belt. But walking around I realised I was the only one walking around.

I wanted to find a community. I saw kids passing through the park—taking a shortcut to the shops. I saw a boy who lived two doors from the park playing in the middle of the road. I saw people alone. I asked a few people I met if I could take a photo. They said no, but one said I could take a photo of her dog.

I saw quite a few people coming and going from the supermarket. Everyone seems to know Barry, who sits quietly and has a drink. He is always happy to have a chat.

I went up to the new Majura Rise development to have a look. All the houses look the same. I didn't see anyone enjoying their newness, no one on the street. I felt like I was on the set of a Stephen King movie. Is this the future of suburbs? Creepy!! Sad!!

My images tell the story of my walk. I have come to love Watson, after just liking it for years. And I seem to have it all to myself!!

**Kerry Baylor**

March 2008



*Green belt 4*



*Some houses 2*



*Majura Rise 3*

## Biography

Self taught photographer, completed a number of courses at PhotoAccess in the past two years; commercial photo printer for 20 years; represented in corporate collections

## Solo Exhibitions

2008 *Watson*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY at PhotoAccess, Manuka Arts Centre

## Group Exhibitions

2007 *Plastic? Fantastic!*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY at PhotoAccess

*Access all areas 2007: The PhotoAccess Member's Show*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY

2006 *Access all areas 2006: The PhotoAccess Members' Show*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY

2005 *Access all areas 2005: The PhotoAccess Members' Show*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY



*The shops 3*



*Green belt 1*



*Majura Rise 4*

## List of works

Artist's proofs from an edition of 5; \$230 each (unframed); Type C prints on photo paper

1	<b><i>Some houses 1</i></b>	203 x 306 mm (8 x 12 inches)
2	<b><i>Some houses 2</i></b>	203 x 306 mm (8 x 12 inches)
3	<b><i>Some houses 3</i></b>	203 x 306 mm (8 x 12 inches)
4	<b><i>Some houses 4</i></b>	203 x 306 mm (8 x 12 inches)
5	<b><i>Green belt 1</i></b>	203 x 306 mm (8 x 12 inches)
6	<b><i>Green belt 2</i></b>	306 x 203 mm (12 x 8 inches)
7	<b><i>Green belt 3</i></b>	306 x 203 mm (12 x 8 inches)
8	<b><i>Green belt 4</i></b>	306 x 203 mm (12 x 8 inches)
9	<b><i>The shops 1</i></b>	203 x 306 mm (8 x 12 inches)
10	<b><i>The shops 2</i></b>	203 x 306 mm (8 x 12 inches)
11	<b><i>The shops 3</i></b>	203 x 306 mm (8 x 12 inches)
12	<b><i>The shops 4</i></b>	203 x 306 mm (8 x 12 inches)
13	<b><i>Majura Rise 1</i></b>	306 x 203 mm (12 x 8 inches)
14	<b><i>Majura Rise 2</i></b>	203 x 306 mm (8 x 12 inches)
15	<b><i>Majura Rise 3</i></b>	203 x 306 mm (8 x 12 inches)
16	<b><i>Majura Rise 4</i></b>	306 x 203 mm (12 x 8 inches)



*The shops 4*

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HUW DAVIES GALLERY @ PhotoAccess

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[www.photoaccess.org.au](http://www.photoaccess.org.au)