

PRESS RELEASE

**THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT:
A public photo essay exhibition**

**1 May – 22 May 2011
Federation Square's Big Screen**



www.stripbillboard.com

The Long and the Short of it running from 1 May – 22 May on Federation Squares big screen is the first of what is to be a bi annual photo essay exhibition. The exhibition is run by Strip Billboard Inc, a Melbourne based public art association.

For the past three months artists, photographers, photojournalists, students and amateurs were encouraged to submit photo essays, a huge number of submissions were sent in from around the world. The final 12 were selected by a panel of judges including: Naomi Cass - Director of the Centre of Contemporary Photography, Bruce Postle - Walkley Award winning photojournalist, Selina Ou a Melbourne based photographer currently in New York undertaking a Australia Council residency.

Situated alongside the Yarra River in the center of Melbourne's busy art scene, *The Long and the Short of it* will display 12 photo essays over the 3 week exhibition. A brief artists statement and details of the location and event are displayed at the start of each artist's work.

This is a unique opportunity for both photographers and the public to engage with images from both around the world and close to home in a public forum. It also creates the opportunity for professional photographers to present photographs they have taken of an event in their entirety rather than as a single image that may appear in the newspaper.

Due to a small advertising budget, submissions for this Melbourne based exhibition were sought on line. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise as we received submissions from as far a field as India, South America and England. The range of stories told were also incredibly diverse - from a family story based in Ohio to a rock band in Burma and a boy that lost his vision in Australia and an unusually personal look at life in China.

We were so overwhelmed by the diversity of the work submitted that we have included a second online exhibition on our website during the 3 weeks. This is on the Current Projects page of our website. We wanted to show not only the depth of the topics covered in the essays we received but also the variety of people who sent in an essay.

These are the 12 artists who will be screened over a three-week period along with some examples of images and text in the exhibition.

Week One

Rodney Dekker (Australia) - Island Life
Dave Tacon (Australia)- Santos, Sierra Leone
Morganna Magee (Australia) - Tyler
Anthony Kitchner (UK) - G20



A protestor, wearing a pink suit and storm troopers helmet, poses in front of a line of riot police in a satirising manner at the G20 summit protests in London April 2009.

Anthony Kitchner- G20

On April 1st 2009, a number of disparate campaign groups – ranging from disquiet over economic policy and anger at the collapse of the banking system and bankers remuneration, to the war on terror and climate change – came together to protest as the leaders of the G20 nations met in London. A number of protest events took place across London, with the anti-capitalist, G20 Meltdown group protesting outside the Bank of England. The police, using the threat of violence and criminal damage as just cause, “kettled” the protest march and confined approximately 5000 people in the area around Bank Underground station for eight hours, without access to food, water or toilet facilities.



Dave Tacon- Santos, Sierra Leone

Forced amputations were a hallmark of the Sierra Leonean conflict - one the most brutal civil wars of the previous century. In 1999, Santos was sixteen when he became a victim of dissident soldiers who accused his peasant family of loyalty to the ousted government.

He survived having his right hand chopped off with a rusty machete and became a refugee in his nation's capital of Freetown. There, he took up sculpture as a means of channeling his creative energy. Today, his talent for woodcarving earns him a more lucrative living than life as a subsistence farmer ever would have.

Week Two – Day Loop (G)

Kevin Cooper – Mr Mot Douk ... Cambodia
Mohammad Rakin Hassan (Sri Lanka)- Climate Genocide
Chris Koller (Australia)- Spot of Bother
Zaan Huizhen Huang (Singapore) – Glue

Week Two – Night Loop (M)

Chris Hopkins (Australia) - The Kill Floor
Mohammad Rakin Hassan (Sri Lanka)- Climate Genocide
Chris Koller (Australia)- Spot of Bother
Zaan Huizhen Huang (Singapore) – Glue



Mohammad R Hassan – Climate Genocide



Chris Hopkins- The Kill Floor

Week Three

Roman Kutzowitz (Germany)- Burma Dissonant

Melenie Faith Dove (Australia)- Skipton Floods

David Dare Parker (Australia)- Bangkok Crackdown

Lucy Di Paolo (Australia)- Fragile Black Heart



Lucy Di Paolo- Fragile black Heart

Fragile Black Heart is a collection of photographs about the people of Lightning Ridge, NSW. Inspired by my late mother, a former resident of Lightning Ridge, I embarked upon this personal journey to discover why the black opal lures many from here and overseas to abandon mainstream society to live in this harsh and remote mining town



David Dare Parker- Bangkok Crackdown

To see the current loop and the online additions go to

www.stripbillboard.com/current-projects.com

We would like to acknowledge the assistance of Naomi Cass, Bruce Postel, Selina Ou – our judges, Nick Hannan from *Marine Graphics Ink* who gave his time to assist us with our website and final digital reproductions and *Federation Square* who sponsored the project to cover all screen and media costs. With out their assistance this project would not have been possible.

Strip Billboard is a Melbourne based arts organisation which organises public art projects which place non-commercial images into high profile public spaces. This is the second public art series by Strip Billboard. If you would like more information on our current or past projects, visit our website www.stripbillboard.com or follow us on Facebook.

For Media enquiries, more images, or to see an advanced copy of one of the loops that will run at Federation Square please email mail@stripbillboard.com or call

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